◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

不思議な話がつぎつぎと、
伊藤潤二の頭脳から、
鮮やかに生まれ出る。
今度はなんだ!?
恐ろしい、怖い、本物の
恐怖アンソロジイ!!

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

カバー・デザイン　小川二郎

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

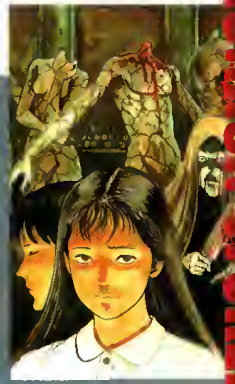
伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[3]肉色の怪

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 3 肉色の怪

9784257903154
1920979005525
ISBN4-257-90315-5
C0979 ¥552E
朝日ソノラマ
定価：本体552円＋税



[3]肉色の怪
屋根裏の長い髪
許し
蜂の巣
薄命
首のない彫刻
肉色の怪

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二
恐怖マンガCollection

◆第1巻　富　江
◆第2巻　富江PART2
◆第3巻　肉色の怪
◆第4巻　顔泥棒
◆第5巻　双一の楽しい日記
◆第6巻　双一の呪いの日記
◆第7巻　なめくじ少女
◆第8巻　血玉樹
◆第9巻　首幻想
◆第10巻　あやつり屋敷
◆第11巻　道のない街
◆第12巻　いじめっ娘
◆第13巻　サーカスが来た
◆第14巻　トンネル奇譚
◆第15巻　死びとの恋わずらい
◆第16巻　フランケンシュタイン

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION③肉色の怪

朝日ソノラマ

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

THIS VOLUME IS ASSEMBLED FROM
THOSE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THIS MANGA:
THE COVER IMAGES AND TABLE OF
CONTENTS ARE FROM THE JAPANESE RAWS,
THE FIRST CHAPTER IS FROM THE THIRD VOLUME
OF "HALLWAY OF TERROR" PUBLISHED BY DARK HORSE
AND THE REST OF THE VOLUME IS FROM THE THIRD
VOLUME OF "THE JUNJI ITO HORROR COMIC COLLECTION"
PUBLISHED BY VIZ. SINCE ONE WAS MIRRORED - THE IMAGES,
SO THIS PART OF THE VOLUME SHOULD BE
READ FROM LEFT TO RIGHT!!

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[3]肉色の怪

朝日ソノラマ

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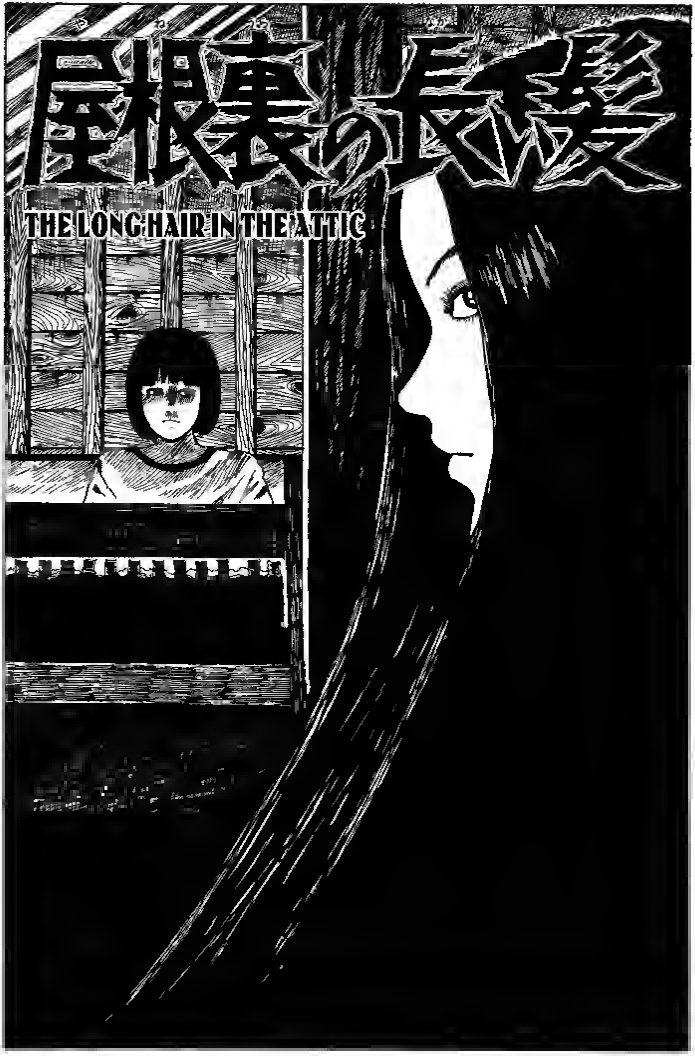
(ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN "MONTHLY MAGAZINE HALLOWEEN" MAY 1994)

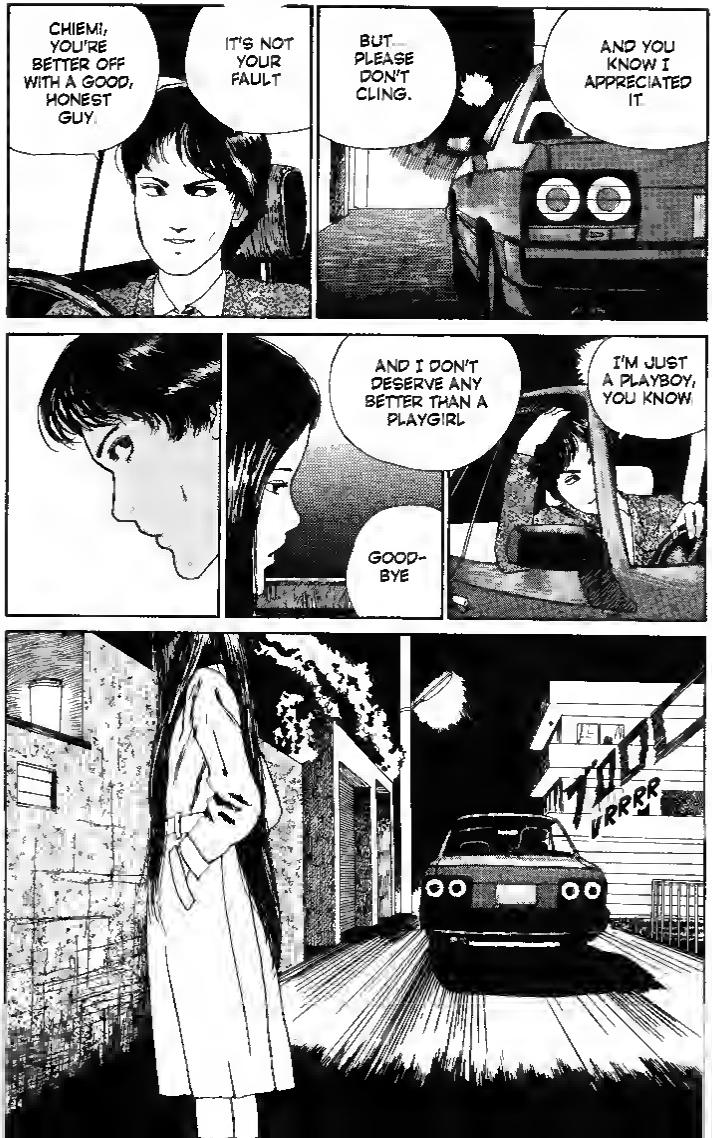

屋根裏の長い髪
THE LONG HAIR IN THE ATTIC

キキ
SKREE

YOU DID YOUR BEST TO PLEASE ME... WITH YOUR HAIR, YOUR LIPSTICK CLOTHES, PERFUME
YOU TRIED

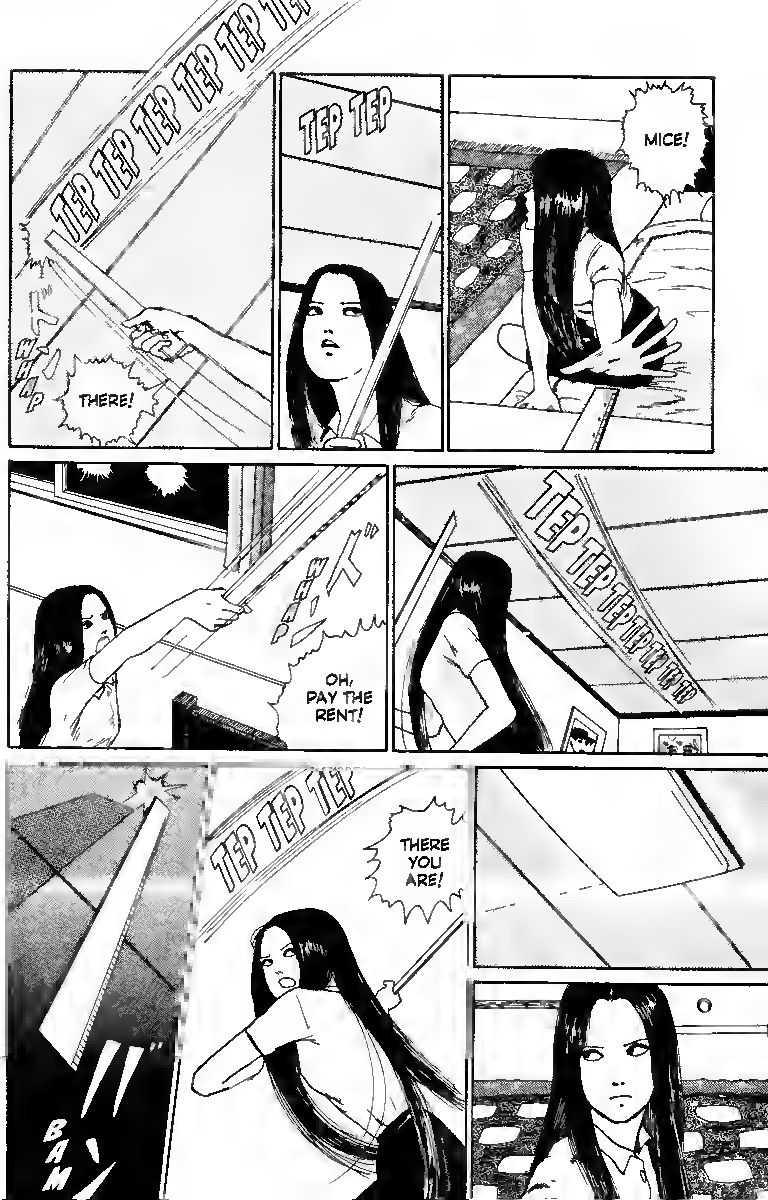
DON'T CALL ME ANYMORE OKAY?

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORK OUT.
IT'S BETTER THAT WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE


CHIEMI, YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH A GOOD, HONEST GUY.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
BUT... PLEASE DON'T CLING.
AND YOU KNOW I APPRECIATED IT.
AND I DON'T DESERVE ANY BETTER THAN A PLAYGIRL
I'M JUST A PLAYBOY, YOU KNOW.
GOOD-BYE
VRRRR

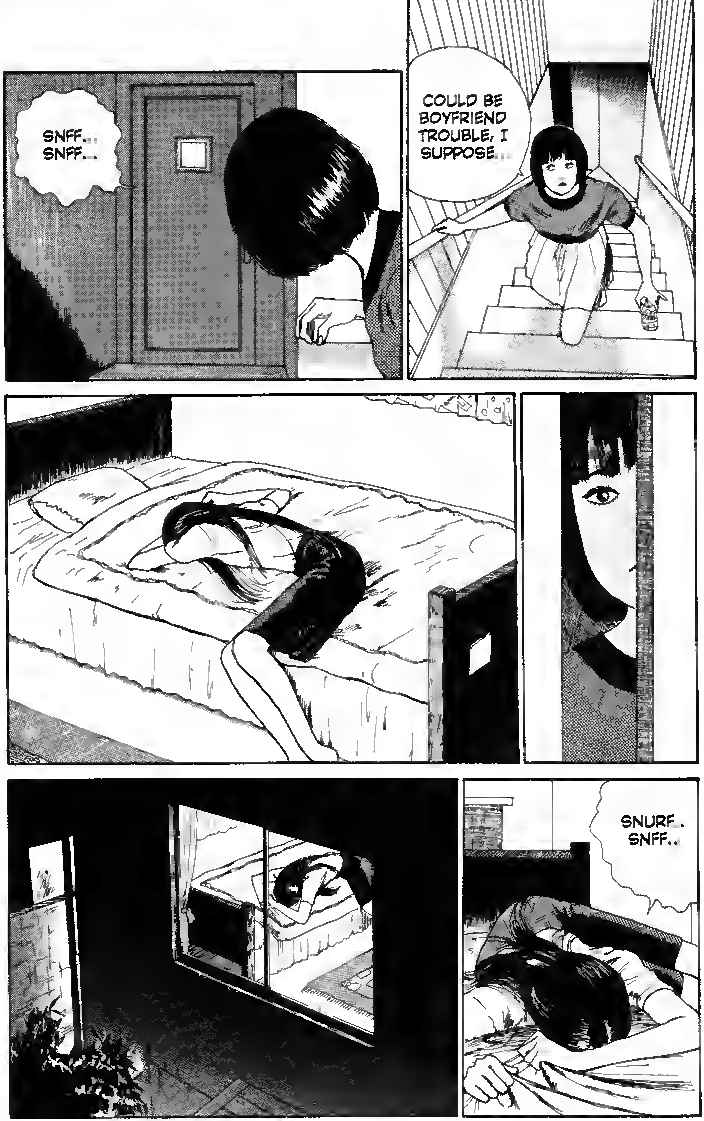
I'M HOME
Hi, ERI
OH HEY, SIS WAS THAT YOU?
I THINK THEY'RE HOLED UP RIGHT ABOVE YOUR ROOM.
HEY, GUESS WHAT? WE'VE GOT MICE
?
YEAH.

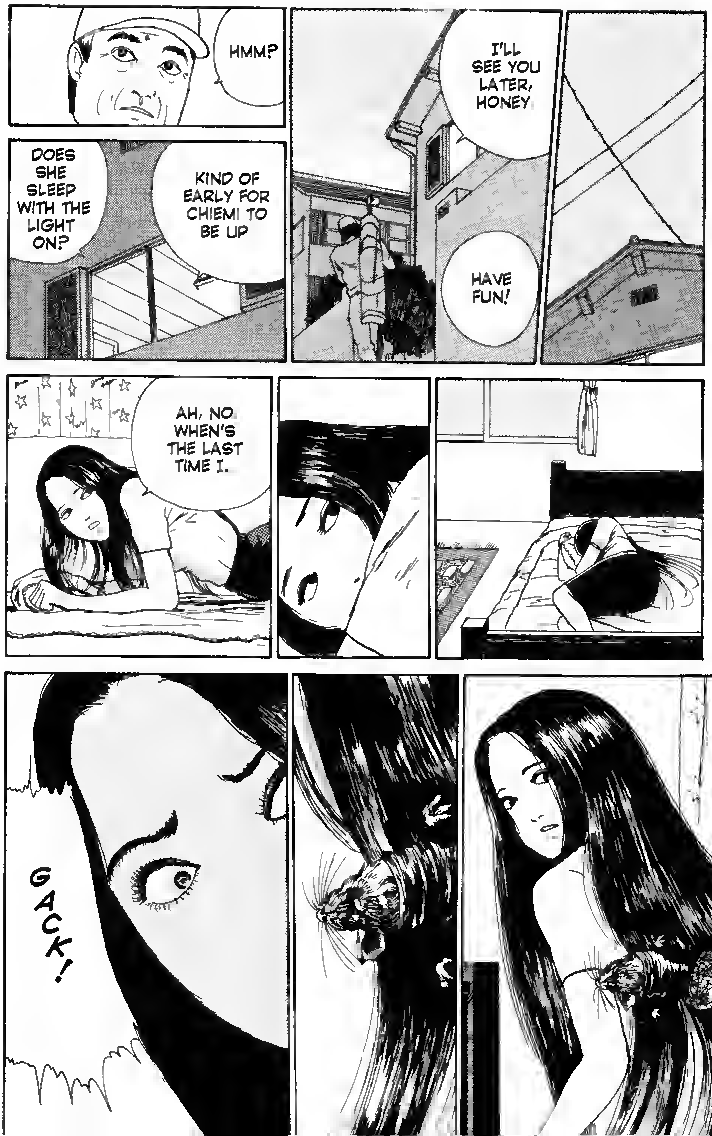
パチン
TEP TEP
HM!
GOODBYE, HUH.
TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP
OH!


TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP
TEP TEP
MICE!
THERE!
OH, PAY THE RENT!
TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP TEP
TEP TEP TEP
THERE YOU ARE!
BAM

WE ALREADY PUT THEM UP. I GUESS MICE ARE MORE CLEVER THAN THEY USED TO BE
WE'LL NEED SOME MOUSETRAPS WILL YOU ASK DAD?
DID YOU HEAR THEM?
MMN.
GEEZ
ERI, IS CHIEMI HOME?
YEAH. SHE'S UPSTAIRS. SHE LOOKED KIND OF DEPRESSED.

CHIEMI.
YEAH?
IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN ME TO THE BEACH.
I'LL DRIVE YOU HERE WHENEVER YOU WANT.
CHIEMI, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING THE OCEAN?
UH-HUH.
A RARE SORT, AREN'T YOU.
MY HAIR?
WILL YOU... GROW YOUR HAIR?
YOU PIG.
...
COME ON, GROW IT OUT FOR ME. I BET IT'LL LOOK GREAT.
DO YOU PREFER IT LONG?
YEAH. MAKE IT THIS LONG.


SNFF...
SNFF...
COULD BE BOYFRIEND TROUBLE, I SUPPOSE...
SNURF..
SNFF..


HMM?
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, HONEY
HAVE FUN!
KIND OF EARLY FOR CHIEMI TO BE UP
DOES SHE SLEEP WITH THE LIGHT ON?
AH, NO WHEN'S THE LAST TIME I..
GACK!

HOW COULD A MOUSE GET..
SO DIS-GUST-ING.
URGH!
ザヴン
SPLOSH
GOOD RIDDANCE TO IT
SURE
I'M GETTING RID OF MY HAIR ANYWAY.
OH, WELL. I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.
SO STUPID.

ANY REASON? I MEAN, I THOUGHT YOU REALLY LIKED IT LONG.
I DUNNO, SIS. YOU SURE?
COME ON, JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
...
IT'S THE MOUSE IT GOT TANGLED.
GWAAHHH!
SIS WANTS ME TO CUT HER HAIR.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER, IT MUST HAVE BEEN BIG.
MOM, WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE SCIS-SORS?
SCISSORS? WHAT FOR?

GIH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AHHH!
MOM, HER HEAD'S GONE.
HER HEAD...
H-HEAD...
WHAT HAP-PENED?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
MY GOD!
THE KILLER GOT AWAY WITH HER HEAD.
GO AFTER HIM!
WHO DID IT?
HER HEAD'S CUT OFF CLEAN.
WHOSE HEAD, AGAIN?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT.
IT WAS DONE WITH A SHARP BLADE.
ERI, CALM DOWN.
IT'S THE MICE! THEY CHEWED IT OFF!
SHE SAYS IT'S THE MICE!
AMANO'S DAUGHTER.. YOU MEAN, THE PRETTY ONE?
YOU MEAN CHIEMI'S?
ARRGH. WHERE ARE THE POLICE?

WHERE'S THE OLD MAN? IT'S SUNDAY. SHOULDN'T HE BE HOME?
IF YOU MEAN AMANO, I BET HE'S OFF PLAYING GOLF.
MA'AM! I SAY, MA'AM!
BUT REALLY, THIS IS HORRIFIC.
MA'AM, PULL YOURSELF TOGETH-ER
SOUNDS LIKE THE POLICE ARE HERE FINALLY.

PRRRT
HELLO... THIS IS HIRATSUKA
CRNCH
GOD, WHAT TIME DOES SHE THINK IT IS?
PRRRRT

HEY ASSHOLE, WHO IS THIS?
KRISH KRISH
HELLO? WHO IS THIS?
THIS IS PRETTY BENT, YOU KNOW THAT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVOKE ME, NOW THAT I BROKE UP WITH YOU?
GRIT GRIT
OH, I GOT IT. CHIEMI, IS THIS YOU?
KRISH KRISH
GODDAMN, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
HEY!
GA CHAK
SQUEE!

IT'S NOT CHIEMI...
MAN, I'M HALF ASLEEP..
WAIT.
IT CAN'T BE. SHE DIED A WEEK AGO...
A REAL SHAME... SHE WAS A GOOD-LOOKING WOMAN
WHEN I HEARD, I... I THOUGHT FOR SURE SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
BUT SHE TRIED SO HARD TO PLEASE ME...
YOU KNOW, SHE NEVER REALLY... EXPRESSED HOW SHE FELT
SHE GOT SO STRESSED OUT OVER THINGS.
ESPECIALLY NOT TO ME...

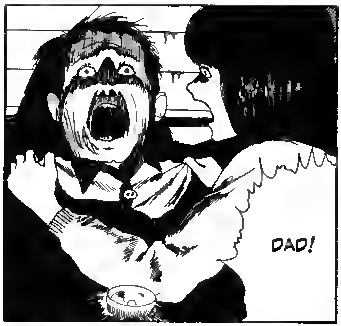
ギシ
GRIT
OH, RIGHT... THAT SOUND...
THAT...
ギギ
GNCH
GNCH
WHAT IS IT, AM I GETTING SENILE?
WHY DID I THINK IT WAS CHIEM!?
...IT'S JUST HOW SHE USED TO GRIND HER TEETH.
PRRRRRT
PRRRRRT

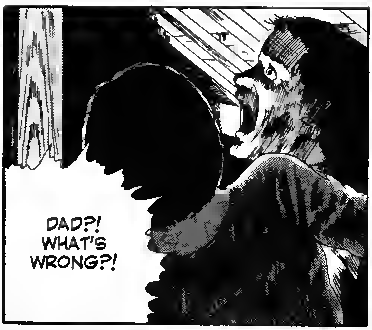
天野
HM? ERI? WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE FLASHLIGHT GOT TO?
DAD.
WELL...I'M THINKING OF CHECKING THE ATTIC.
ATTIC, HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
OH, IT'S...IT'S RIGHT HERE

HEY... ERI... HANG ON.
I'LL GO UP AND CHECK.
YEAH, I HAVEN'T HEARD THE MICE FOR A WHILE. MAYBE THE TRAPS DID THEIR JOB.
AH, YEAH...
CHIEMI DIED UPSTAIRS. I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO BOTH OF YOU.
DAD, I'LL BE FINE.
I SHOULD, THOUGH.
IT'S OKAY, DAD. DON'T FUSS
JUST WAIT DOWN HERE.
SERIOUSLY, DAD, DON'T REMEMBER YOUR HEART CONDITION?

NOW, WHERE DID I PUT THEM?
DAD?
DID YOU FIND ANY MICE?
HE'S SURE TAKING HIS TIME.
OH, NO

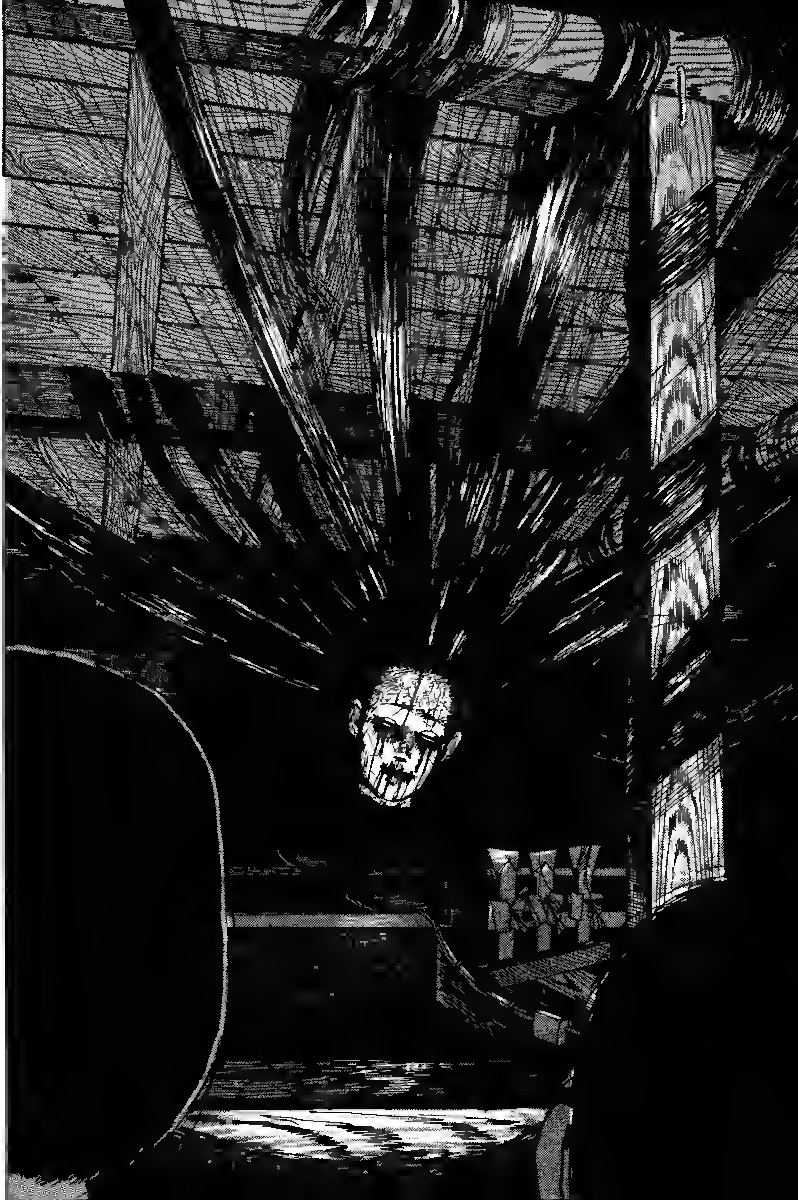
DAD!


DAD!


DAD?!
WHAT'S
WRONG?!

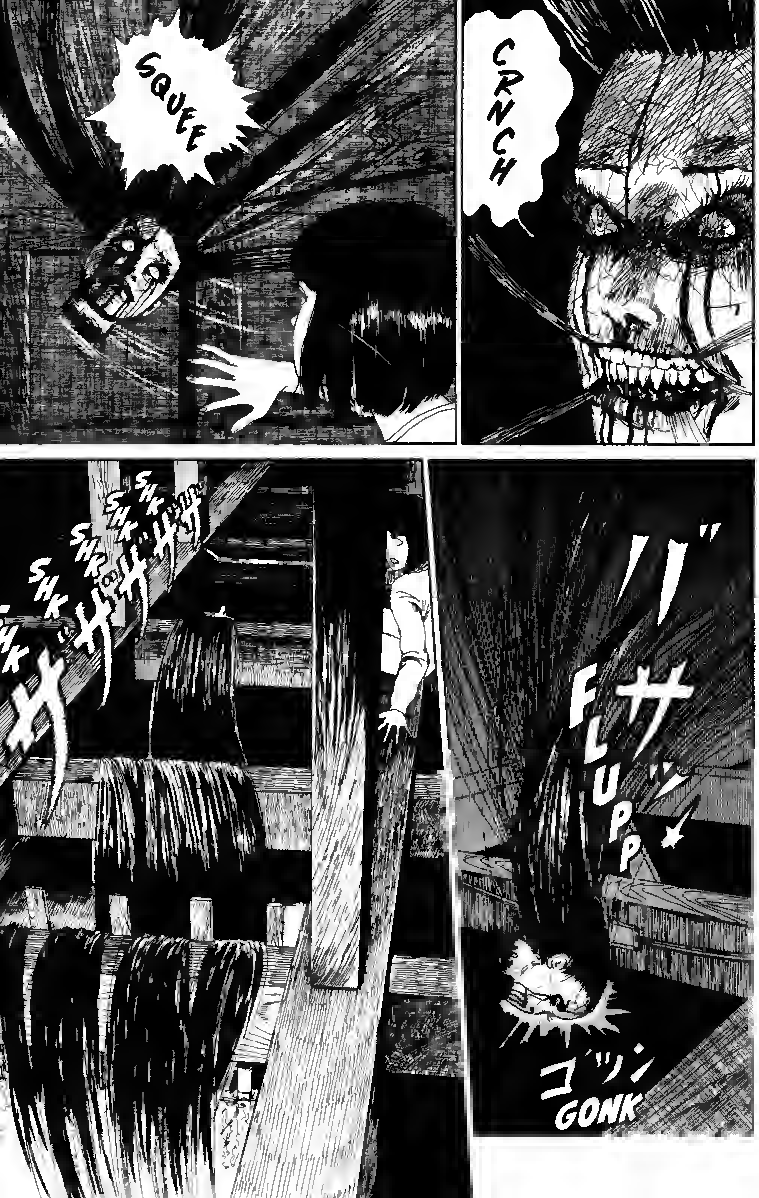
IS HE...
DEAD?!

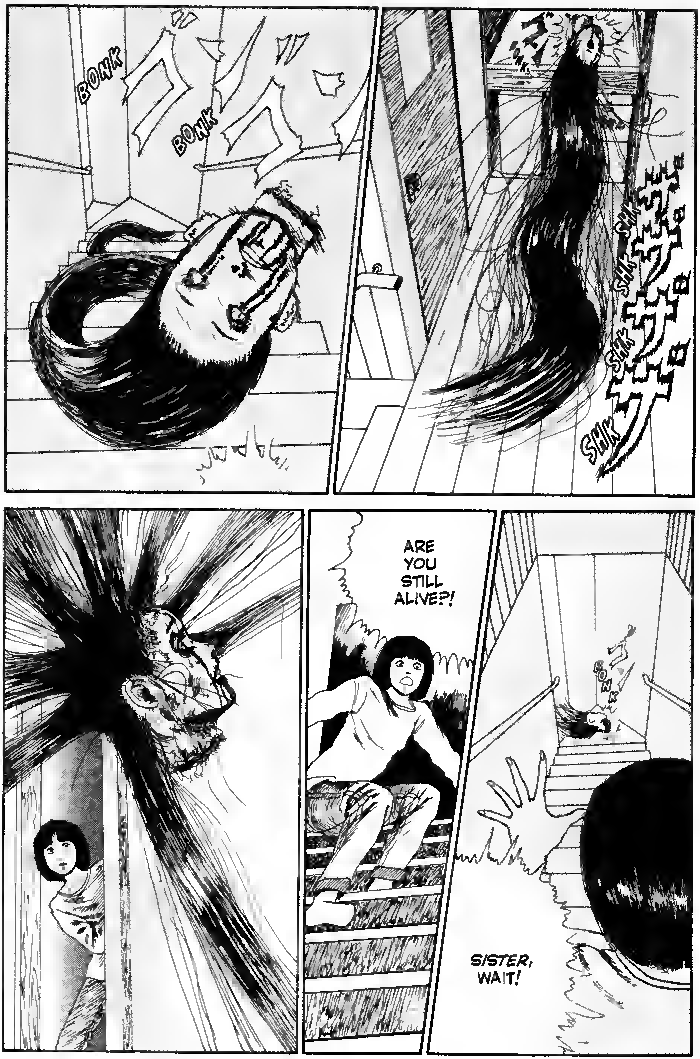
ANSWER
ME!



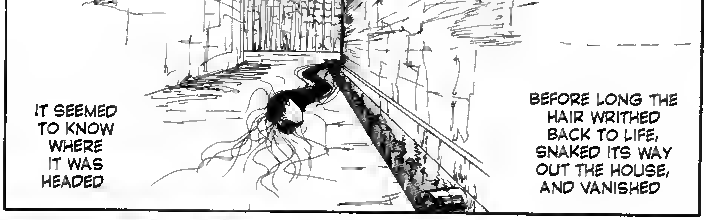
SISTER...
I'VE GOTTA HELP HER DOWN
WHO... DID THIS TO HER?!

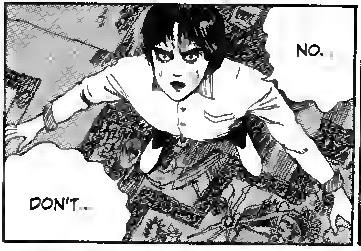
IT'S STUCK.
MY HANDS
...
I..I NEED THE SCISSORS
GRIT GRIT


SQUEE
CRNCH
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
FLUPP
ゴッン
GONK

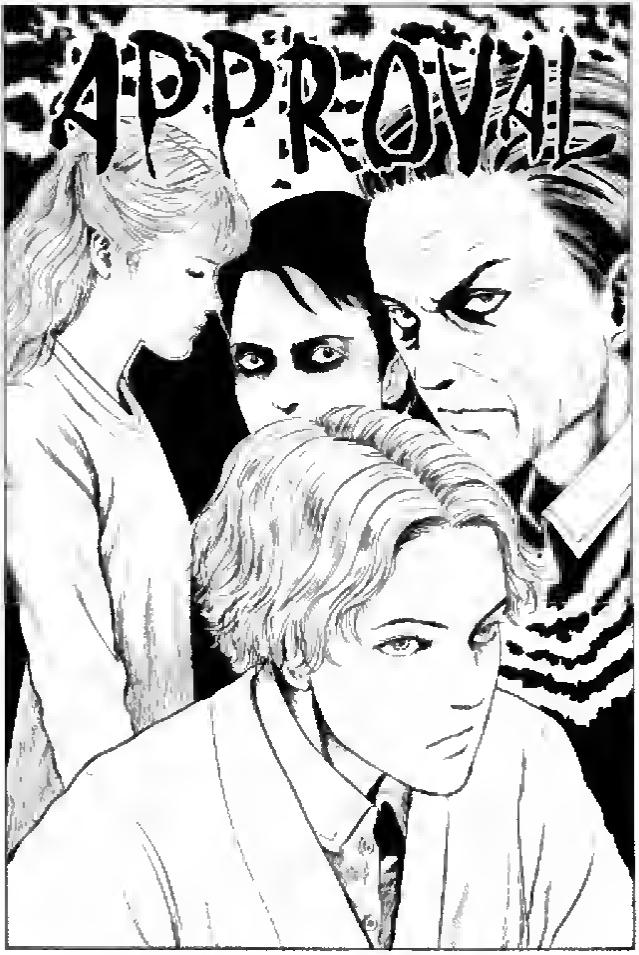

BONK
BONK
SINK
SINK
SINK
SINK
ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?!
SISTER, WAIT!

SISTER!
NO. .
IT'S NOT HER THAT'S ALIVE AT ALL. IT'S... THE HAIR...
IT'S THE HAIR. .
IT KILLED HER, OF ITS OWN WILL.

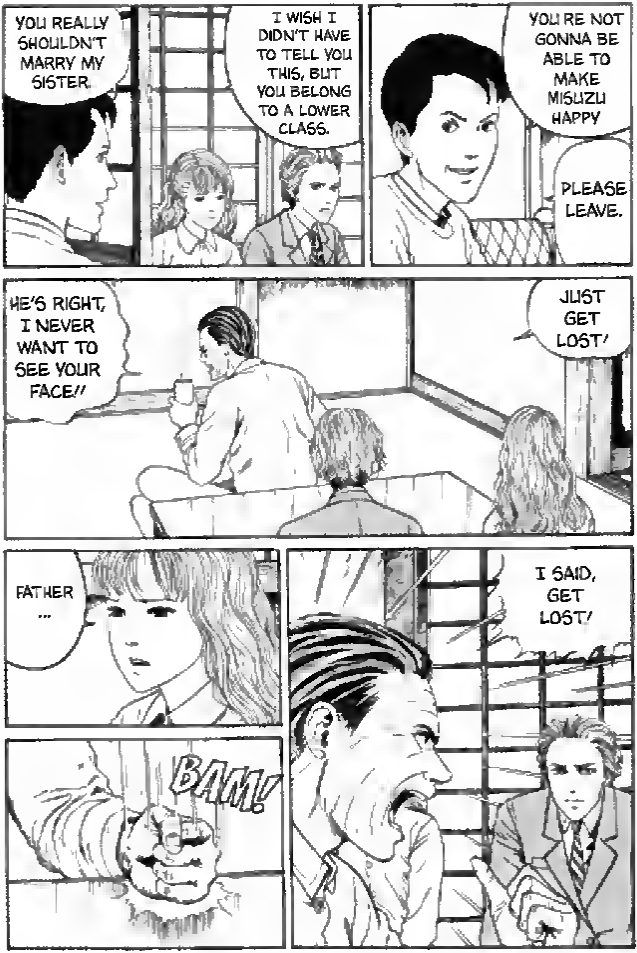




THE LONG HAIR IN THE ATTIC / THE END


APPROVAL

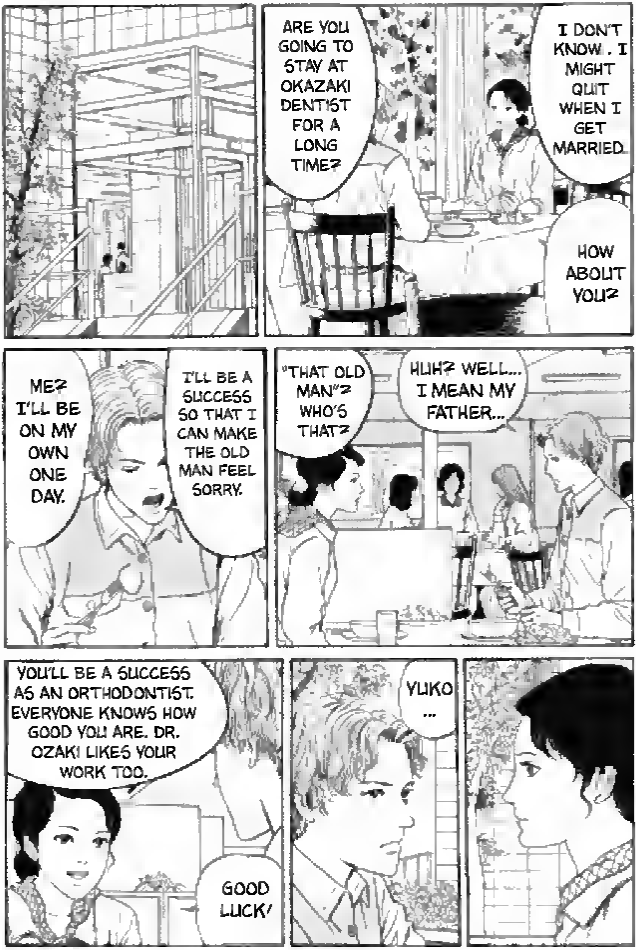
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU VISIT ME!
I WON'T LET YOU MARRY MISUZU!
SHE ALREADY HAS ANOTHER OFFER OF MARRIAGE.
HEY SETSUO!
YOU TALK TO HIM.
YES...
HEY KYOSUKE...


YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T MARRY MY SISTER.
I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU BELONG TO A LOWER CLASS.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO MAKE MISUZU HAPPY
PLEASE LEAVE.
HE'S RIGHT, I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE!!
JUST GET LOST!
FATHER ...
I SAID, GET LOST!
BAM!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE.
I DID WHAT I COULD.
ELOPING IS THE ONLY WAY OUT.
SOBBING
SOBBING
I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF COURAGE.
IF YOU STILL THINK YOU WANT TO GET YOUR FATHER'S CONSENT, IT'S OVER.
GOOD BYE.
... BYE?
YEAH, THIS IS IT.

HOW MANY TIMES DID I VISIT MISUZU'S HOUSE?
OZAKI DENTIST
OZAKI DENTIST
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS THAT PATIENT.
BUT NOT ANYMORE.
BZZZZZZ
I WON'T SEE MISUZU ...
BZZZZZZ
KYOSUKE ?
KYOSUKE ?
WHAT ?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
HERE, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS.
OH... SORRY ABOUT THAT YUKO...
WHAT'S UP KYOSUKE? YOU LOOK DEPRESSED TODAY.
EH... NOTHING'S WRONG.
.....
SHAKE SHAKE
HYDROCK

YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET LATELY
EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THINGS NOT GOING GOOD WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND MAYBE?
YES ...
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, I BROKE UP WITH HER.
OH GOD... ...SORRY I ASKED. I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE NOSY.
THAT'S FINE. IT HAPPENED 3 WEEKS AGO, ANY-WAY.
HEY... NEED A RIDE?
HUH? OH, NO THANKS. I'LL CATCH THE TRAIN.
C'MON, BE MY GUEST.
OK THEN. THANKS.


ARE YOU GOING TO STAY AT OKAZAKI DENTIST FOR A LONG TIME?
I DON'T KNOW. I MIGHT QUIT WHEN I GET MARRIED.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
ME? I'LL BE ON MY OWN ONE DAY.
I'LL BE A SUCCESS SO THAT I CAN MAKE THE OLD MAN FEEL SORRY.
"THAT OLD MAN"? WHO'S THAT?
HUH? WELL... I MEAN MY FATHER...
YOU'LL BE A SUCCESS AS AN ORTHODONTIST. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW GOOD YOU ARE. DR. OZAKI LIKES YOUR WORK TOO.
GOOD LUCK!
YUKO ...

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING HIRAO. I HAD A GREAT TIME.
ME TOO.
...CAN WE GET TOGETHER AGAIN?
SURE.
I STARTED TO LIKE YUKO TANIGUCHI.
BAM!

YOU'RE ...
MISUZU'S BROTHER...
HELLO KYOSUKE. LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU WEREN'T HOME SO I WAITED FOR YOU
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
UM... SORRY TO SHOW UP LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN.
ACTUALLY, I NEED YOU TO DO ME A BIG FAVOR
DO YOU STILL LOVE MISUZU?
IF SO, I WANT YOU TO COME TO OUR HOUSE AND TALK TO MY FATHER
I WANT YOU TO GET MARRIED TO MY SISTER.

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAVE YOU FORGOT ABOUT ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU TOLD ME?!
YES, YES, I KNOW.
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I SAID... BUT WHY DON'T YOU THINK IT OVER?
HERE... I BROUGHT MY FATHER'S FAVORITE DRINK... BRING THIS WITH YOU AND TALK TO HIM AGAIN, WILL YOU?
MISUZU WILL CALL A CAB TO PICK YOU UP TONIGHT.
JUST GET IN THE CAB AND COME TO MY HOUSE
MY FATHER WILL SAY NO AGAIN BUT PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP.
I'LL BE ON YOUR SIDE.
JUST WAIT A MINUTE!
I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GOING!

YOU'LL COME. ...I KNOW YOU WILL, BECAUSE YOU STILL LOVE HER.
MISUZU LOVES YOU DEEPLY TOO...
SHE REALIZED THAT AFTER YOU LEFT HER.
AS HER BROTHER, I HAD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
I'LL BE WAITING ...
SEE YOU TONIGHT.

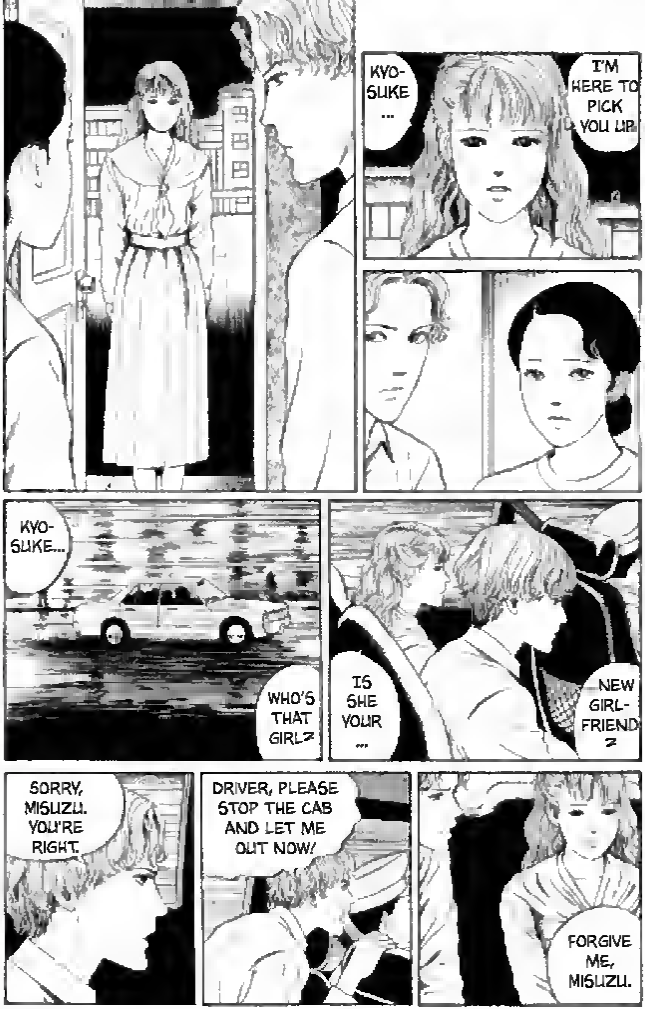
DING DONG
DING DONG
SQUEAK
KYOSUKE.
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
PLEASE COME WITH ME.
MISUZU ...

FUKATSU
FATHER, WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM GET MARRIED ?
COME TO THINK OF IT, KYOSUKE IS QUITE A NICE YOUNG MAN.
NO.. NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T LET HIM MARRY MY MISUZU.
FATHER... WE WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL YOU SAY YES.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

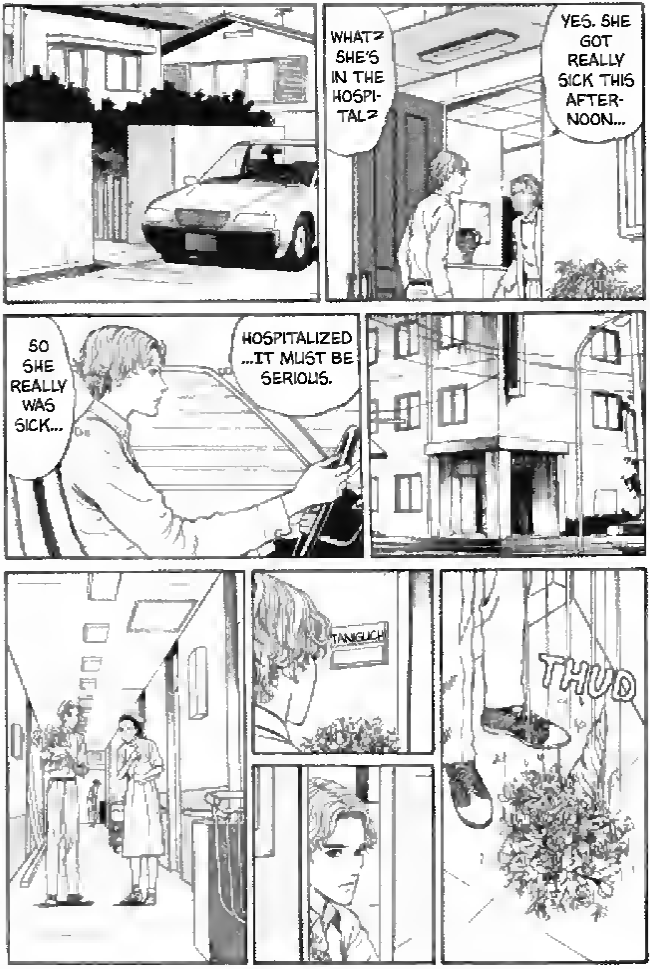
IT DIDN'T GO WELL TONIGHT BUT PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP HOPE.
CAB IS COMING SOON... I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM. MISUZU'LL STAY HERE UNTIL IT COMES.
....I'LL SEE YOU LATER
SLIDE
YOU'RE SO QUIET TONIGHT. IS SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
NOT REALLY ...
I .. I WAS WORRIED. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR LIFE, SINCE I DIDN'T GET TO SEE YOU FOR A WHOLE MONTH
ARE YOU SEEING SOMEONE ELSE?
UM .. NO.
OH GOOD ...

HERE, KYOSUKE.
WHAT IS THIS?
LATE VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT.
YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, SO I ASSUMED YOU DIDN'T GET ANY THIS YEAR
THANK YOU SO MUCH
MISS TANIGUCHI...
JUST CALL ME YUKO!
HEY, CAN I COME OVER TONIGHT? I'LL FIX DINNER FOR YOU.
SURE...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
DO YOU LIKE IT?
OH YEAH, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.

WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN SOME-TIME?
YUKO
DING DONG
WHO'S THAT?
DING DONG!
I'LL GET IT.. GO ON, EAT.
UH-OH
CAN IT BE...?
KYO-SUKE ...
IT'S A GIRL NAME FUKA-TSU.


KYO-SUKE ...
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
KYO-SUKE...
WHO'S THAT GIRL?
IS SHE YOUR ...
NEW GIRL-FRIEND?
SORRY, MISUZU. YOU'RE RIGHT.
DRIVER, PLEASE STOP THE CAB AND LET ME OUT NOW!
FORGIVE ME, MISUZU.

I JUST REALIZED THAT... I'M IN LOVE WITH HER...
I'M GOING BACK. GOOD BYE.
SLAM
YUKO DIDN'T COME TO WORK NEXT DAY.
OZARI DENTIST
SHE SAID SHE HAD A FEVER.
YUKO'S OFF? THAT'S ODD.
DID I HURT HER FEELINGS LAST NIGHT?
I'LL GO SEE HER AFTER WORK.


WHAT? SHE'S IN THE HOSPI-TAL?
YES. SHE GOT REALLY SICK THIS AFTER-NOON...
SO SHE REALLY WAS SICK...
HOSPITALIZED ...IT MUST BE SERIOUS.
TANIGUCH
THUD

YUKO
//
AHUH
AHUH
WHY DID SHE HAVE TO GO SO SOON?
..IT'S MY FAULT... SHE DIED 'CAUSE OF ME.
YUKO... PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
CLICK

EXCUSE ME BUT... THE DOOR WAS OPEN..
.....
...I JUST COULDN'T FORGET ABOUT YOU...
SO I DECIDED TO COME AGAIN...
ARE YOU CRYING, KYO-SUKE?
SHE.. DIED.
OH NO...
MISUZU AND I CRIED ALL NIGHT LONG.
I CRIED FOR YUKO...
AND MISUZU CRIED FOR ME.

TIME HAS PASSED. I'M IN MY THIRTIES NOW.
BUT I KEEP VISITING MISUZU'S HOUSE REGULARLY.
SINCE THAT NIGHT, MISUZU AND I ARE A COUPLE AGAIN.
BUT HER FATHER KEEPS SAYING NO.
MISUZU LOOKED SO SAD.
BUT SHE ALWAYS LOOKED SO LOVELY.
...KYOSUKE... IT'S STILL NOT HOPELESS.
YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP, ARE YOU?
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP.
NO MATTER HOW OLD I GET...
BUT ...

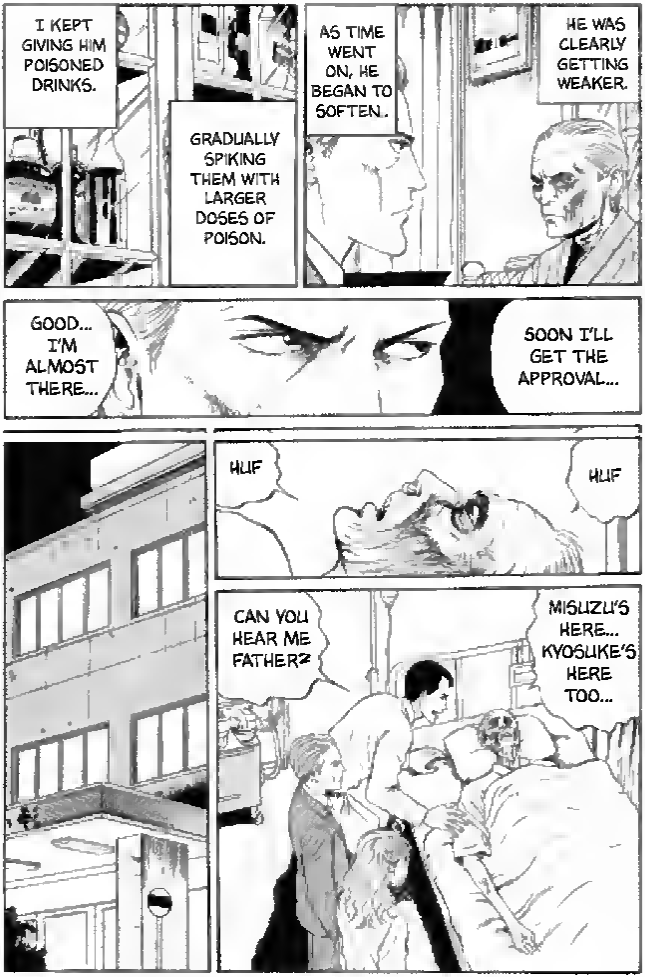
MISUZU WILL GET OLD, TOO, AS THIS GOES ON..
THIS IS MY ONLY CONCERN.
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED ONE DAY, RIGHT?
YES!
OOPS, I LEFT MY BAG.
I'LL GO GET IT.
IS HE GONE, SETSUO?
YES, FATHER.

HE'S NOT GIVING UP, IS HE?
NO. HE'LL NEVER CHANGE HIS MIND.
GOOD. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, TETSUO.
I KNOW IT'S A LOT OF WORK FOR YOU BUT..
IT MAKES MY LIFE WORTH LIVING.
SETSUO.... DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?
MY DEAREST DAUGHTER, TAKEN AWAY BY THAT MAN... WHAT A SHAME...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
KYOSUKE WILL NEVER STOP ASKING FOR MY APPROVAL.
BUT HE'LL NEVER GET WHAT HE WANTS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, FATHER.
WAHAH AHAH!

SON OF A..
PLAYING WITH MY EMOTIONS ALL THIS TIME!!
DOES MISUZU HAVE ANY IDEA?!
MISUZU!
MISUZU!
MISUZU!
.....

YOU'RE NOT MARRYING MY DAUGHTER.
THERE'S NO WAY
I BROUGHT YOUR FAVORITE DRINK TODAY, MR. FUKATSU.
HOPE YOU'LL LIKE IT...
HEH... I'LL TAKE IT, SINCE YOU INSIST.
BUT GIFTS WON'T MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND

LITTLE BY LITTLE ...
THE POISON IN THE DRINKS WILL TAKE EFFECT, AND THEN...
I DON'T CARE IF THEY FIND OUT ...
I'LL JUST DEAL WITH IT...
I JUST DON'T WANT THIS PLAN TO FAIL...
HIS DEATH WILL BE ALL THE "APPROVAL" I NEED/
AS SOON AS HE DIES, I'LL MARRY MISUZU...
LUCKILY, HER FATHER SEEMED TO LIKE THE DRINK.
HAVE YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT, KYOSUKE?
YOU NEED TO START EATING BETTER, I'D SAY
YES, SIR. .
FEH... SOON HE'LL HAVE NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS...


I KEPT GIVING HIM POISONED DRINKS.
GRADUALLY SPIKING THEM WITH LARGER DOSES OF POISON.
AS TIME WENT ON, HE BEGAN TO SOFTEN.
HE WAS CLEARLY GETTING WEAKER.
GOOD... I'M ALMOST THERE...
SOON I'LL GET THE APPROVAL...
HUF
HUF
CAN YOU HEAR ME FATHER?
MISUZU'S HERE... KYOSUKE'S HERE TOO...

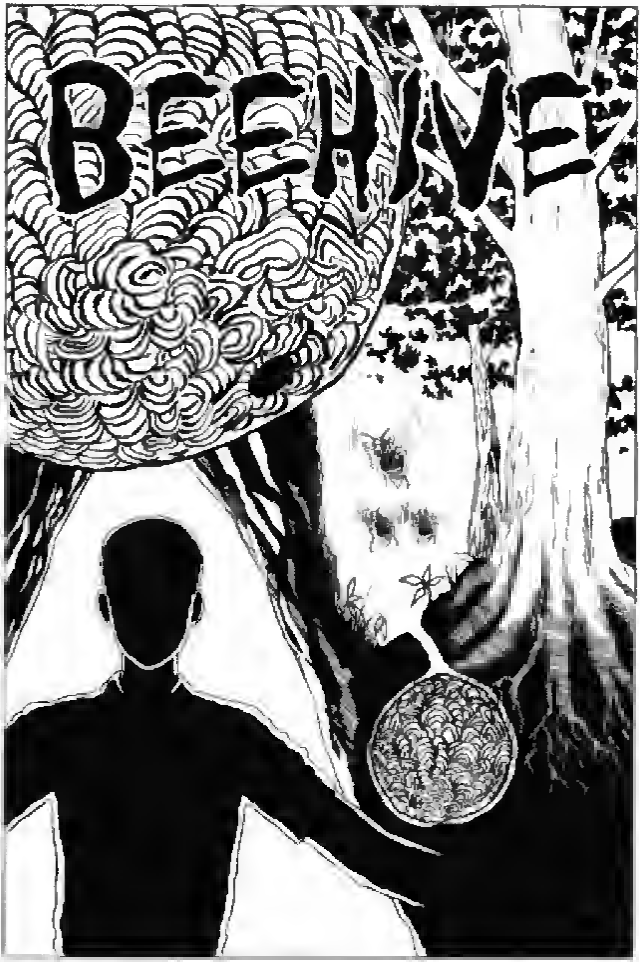
IT'S ME, MR. FUKATSU. HOW DO YOU FEEL?
KYOSUKE
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT
DON'T SAY THAT
...KYO-SUKE
...HOW LONG HAVE I KNOWN YOU?
...IT'S BEEN
13 YEARS NOW...
...HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG...?
KYOSUKE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MISUZU WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH YOU
WHEN SHE BROKE UP WITH YOU THAT ONE TIME,
SHE TOLD ME THAT HER LOVE FOR YOU WAS REAL...
BUT I COULDN'T LET MYSELF ADMIT IT...
AND.. SHE KILLED HER-SELF A FEW DAYS LATER ...

MISUZU KILLED HERSELF... BUT....
LATER SETSUO SAW HER SPIRIT.. HER SPIRIT ASKED SETSUO...
TO HELP HER CONVINCE ME.
THEN HER SPIRIT BEGAN TO APPEAR WITH YOU, BUT I STILL DIDN'T APPROVE THE MARRIAGE.
IT WAS TOO LATE, AFTER ALL!
HOW COULD I LET YOU MARRY MY DEAD DAUGHTER?
BUT...
THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE MY DAUGHTER.. THE SPIRIT SHOWS UP WITH YOU...
...I USED YOU SO I COULD SEE MISUZU.
I...
MISSED MY DAUGHTER ...
AND I USED YOU ALL THESE YEARS JUST TO KEEP SEEING HER.

I'VE BEEN FOOLING YOU....
MISUZU'S ALREADY DEAD..
P... PLEASE FORGIVE M... ME...
PAPA ...?
PAPA !!
NO ...
IT'S A LIE..
MISUZU IS RIGHT HERE WITH ME!
M... MISUZU... WHERE ARE YOU?

LOOKING BACK...
MAYBE YUKO DIED 'CAUSE SHE WAS CURSED BY MISUZU.
AND I LOOK LIKE A GHOST NOW
CAN THIS BE HER CURSE TOO?
DING DONG
MISUZU IS HERE...
AGAIN...
MISUZU COMES TO ME EVERY NIGHT.
WITH A CHEERFUL LOOK, SHE BECKONS ME FAR AWAY FROM MY APARTMENT DOOR
I CAN HEAR HER SAY KYOSUKE OUR MARRIAGE IS FINALLY APPROVED ...

APPROVAL / END


BEEHIVE

YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT BEES ANYMORE, TAKANO.
DO YOU THINK SO?
YES. YOU USED TO TALK ABOUT BEES ALL THE TIME.
YOU'RE NOT CHASING BEES LATELY, ARE YOU?
COLLECTING BEEHIVES IS MY HOBBY, BUT I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO AS WELL.
I'M JUST NOT INTO IT THESE DAYS, THAT'S ALL.
HMM. THERE'S A LOT OF THEM AROUND, THOUGH ...
HEY, FORGET ABOUT BEES.

WOW!
bzzzz
A GIANT HORNET!
GOTTA GO, YORIKO!
THEY'RE RARE AROUND HERE!

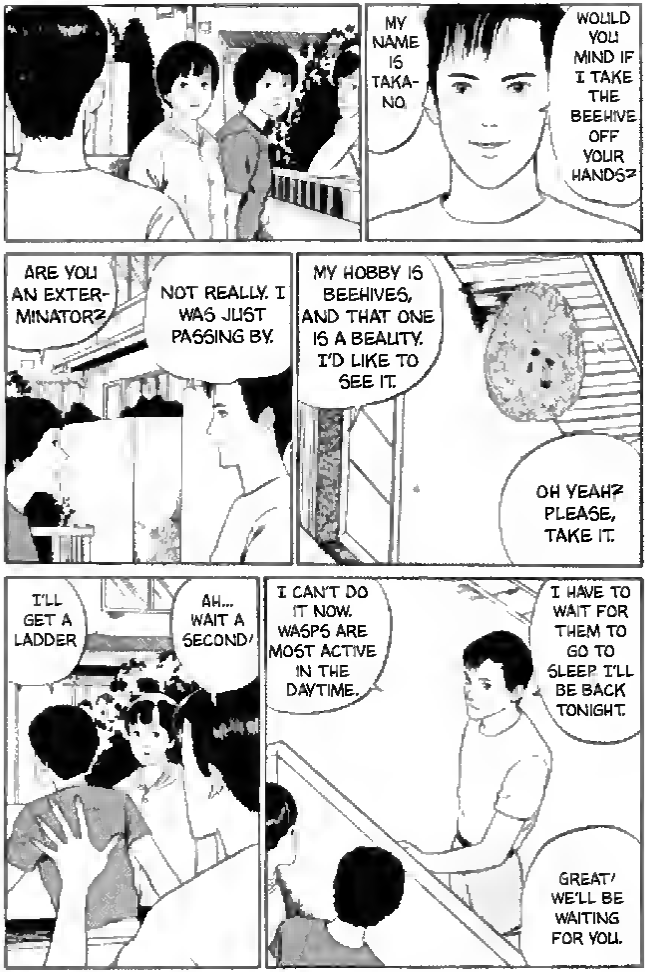
WAIT, TAKANO! LET ME GO WITH YOU!
ZA ZA ZA
DASH
ACK!
IT'S GOING LOWER NOW.
ITS NEST MUST BE CLOSE.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S GOING IN THAT DIRECTION...
TAKANO
HUFF HUFF
DID YOU FIND THE HIVE?
NO.
HUH? WHY DID YOU STOP CHASING IT?
UM. . WELL...
YOU STOPPED CHASING FOR NO REASON? YOU'RE STRANGE.
...BY THE WAY, WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY PLACE. I'LL SHOW YOU MY COLLECTION.
I'VE SEEN THEM ALREADY.
I HAVE NEW ONES.
REALLY ?

OH I GET IT. YOU'RE SCARED OF THE GHOST.
THE GHOST?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY ABOUT THE GHOST? HE SOUNDS LIKE A KID MOANING..
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT? I DO.
HEY,
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?
HIM ?
Y'KNOW, THE WEIRD KID.
HE'S BEEN MISSING FOR A WHILE...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

I MET HIM WHEN I FOUND A BEEHIVE UNDER THE EAVES OF MY HOUSE...
IT WAS ALSO THE DAY I FIRST MET YOU...
BUZZ
OH GOD... I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A BEEHIVE THERE.
THEY'RE WASPS, AREN'T THEY? THEY'RE DANGEROUS.
YOU'VE GOT A HUGE HIVE, MRS. NISHIO.
OH, HELLO YORIKO.
HELLO NEIGHBOR

YOU SHOULD GET RID OF THEM SOON. WE HAD ONE OF THEM LAST YEAR.
THERE'S TONS OF WASPS AROUND HERE.
WHICH EXTERMI-NATOR DID YOU CALL?
WELL, I ASKED ONE OF THE NEIGHBOR'S KIDS. HE TOOK THE WASPS WITH HIS BARE HANDS.
A KID? BARE HANDS!?
HE WAS KIND OF WEIRD. HE WASN'T AFRAID OF THE WASPS AT ALL, AND HE KEPT TALKING TO HIMSELF.
I THINK HE WANTED TO KEEP THE BEEHIVE FOR HIMSELF.
BUT THANKS TO HIM, THE BEEHIVE'S GONE.
HOW CAN I FIND THAT KID?
I DON'T KNOW... I SEE HIM FROM TIME TO TIME. HE SAID HE LIVES AROUND HERE...
UH, 'SCUSE ME..


MY NAME IS TAKA-NO.
WOULD YOU MIND IF I TAKE THE BEEHIVE OFF YOUR HANDS?
ARE YOU AN EXTER-MINATOR?
NOT REALLY. I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
MY HOBBY IS BEEHIVES, AND THAT ONE IS A BEAUTY. I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.
OH YEAH? PLEASE, TAKE IT.
I'LL GET A LADDER
AH... WAIT A SECOND!
I CAN'T DO IT NOW. WASPS ARE MOST ACTIVE IN THE DAYTIME.
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEM TO GO TO SLEEP. I'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.
GREAT! WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

I'LL TAKE THAT BEEHIVE FOR YOU.
WHAT?!
WILL YOU GET ME THE LAD-DER?
IT'S THE KID I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
PLEASE GET ME THE LADDER. I'LL TAKE IT FOR YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THE GUY OVER THERE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.
YOU'RE SMALL. IT COULD BE DAN-GEROUS.
.. BUT THIS GUY USES INSECTI-CIDE.
I CAN GET THE HIVE OFF WITHOUT KILLING THE WASPS.

THIS AREA WAS ONCE A FOREST PEOPLE CUT DOWN ALL THE TREES TO BUILD THE TOWN.
THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY WASPS. THEY USED TO LIVE IN THE WOODS.
BE CAREFUL!
SO, I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD LEAVE...
ANY-WAY, GET THE LAD-DER.
HMM
OK GUYS, WE'RE MOVING... GET INSIDE.
ZOOOM
CUT CUT
WILL HE BE OK?

AMAZING! NOT A SINGLE STING.
I'LL KEEP THIS ONE.
WOW, THAT WAS SOMETHING.
HEY KID... HOLD IT.

I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND THAT BEEHIVE!
BUT I GOT IT OFF.
YOU...I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE IN THE WOODS... ARE YOU A HIVE COLLECTOR TOO?
AH-HA!
LATELY, SOMEONE'S BEEN SNEAKING AROUND, TAKING THE BEEHIVES I FIND...
I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM... AREN'T I RIGHT?
I'M JUST SAVING THE HIVES FROM SUCKERS LIKE YOU. WASPS ARE MY FRIEND.
HEY WAIT, THAT'S MINE! GIVE IT TO ME!
GRAB
ZOOM!
BUZZ!
DAMN!

WAA!
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM
BOOM
ARE YOU OK?!
Y... YEAH...
THAT BRAT...
HE TOOK OFF...

DID THEY STING YOU?
NO.
WHY DID THEY ATTACK YOU?
OH, YOU'RE ...
YES. I'M YORIKO.
I FORGOT TO SAY THANKS, SO I FOLLOWED YOU.
THANKS? FOR WHAT?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
DON'T SAY THAT.
WELL, SURE.. WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO THIS TOWN?
3 MONTHS AGO.
YEAH? I'VE BEEN HERE A YEAR. I LIKE IT LOTS OF BEES.
LET'S BE PALS.

ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO GET TO THE WOODS..
OH!
TAKANO.
HEY TAKANO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SHHH!
I'M USING THE TUNA FISH TO LURE BEES.
THAT ONE'S CALLED "BLACK WASP."
IT MAKES A FOOD BALL TO TAKE TO THE LARVAE.
WHAT'S THAT?
I MARKED THE TUNA FISH WITH COTTON.
THE COTTON IS MY TRACER. NOW I'LL FOLLOW IT.
BOOOM
THEN I'LL FIND ITS BEEHIVE!
I'M GOING TOO!

WAIT, IT'S NOT SAFE.
BE CAREFUL //
I'LL BE FINE!
HUFF HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
DID YOU FIND IT?!
YOU'RE QUITE A RUNNER.

IT WENT IN THE CAVE. THE HIVE MUST BE IN IT.

I WANNA GO INSIDE TOO!
NO! WASPS ARE VICIOUS. YOU COULD GET KILLED.

BUZZZZ
BUZZZZ
THE HOLLOW BOOMING IS SO LOUD.

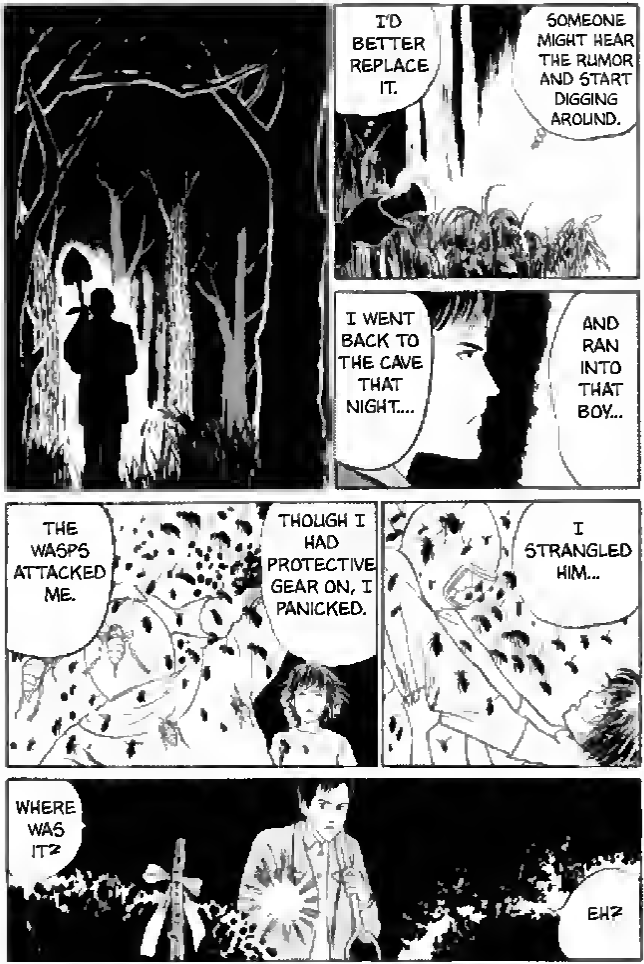
BOOOM

BOOOM

BUZZ

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HOW CAN DIFFERENT KINDS OF WASPS GET ALONG LIKE THAT?
THE BOY MUST'VE BROUGHT THEM HERE. BUT HOW...?
BUZZ
WOW... WHAT A COLLECTION!
HOW WAS IT?
I FOUND IT.
IT WAS SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT

I WANT TO PAY MY RESPECT TO THAT BOY FOR HIS AMAZING COLLECTION.
THE BOY WHO'S GONE MISSING NOW...
WOW, NOW YOU HAVE THREE TIMES MORE!
WHEN DID YOU GET SO MANY?
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS.
I COULD BUILD MY OWN MUSEUM BUT IT'S HAR TO KEEP THEM FROM GETTING SPOILED
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THAT MISSING BOY...
NOT AGAIN ...
I THINK SOMEONE KILLED HIM AND BURIED THE BODY IN THE WOODS.
THE RUMOR SAYS... IT'S A GHOST OF THAT BOY.
AND I THINK SO TOO...


I'D BETTER REPLACE IT.
SOMEONE MIGHT HEAR THE RUMOR AND START DIGGING AROUND.
I WENT BACK TO THE CAVE THAT NIGHT....
AND RAN INTO THAT BOY...
THE WASPS ATTACKED ME.
THOUGH I HAD PROTECTIVE GEAR ON, I PANICKED.
I STRANGLED HIM...
WHERE WAS IT?
EH?

A MARK ...?
MUST BE THE BEE HUNTER'S.. SOMEONE WAS HERE DURING THE DAY.. THEY MAY BE PROFESSIONALS...
COULD IT BE...
THE HORNET I SAW TODAY? THEN THE HIVE MUST BE IN THE GROUND.
YES! I WAS RIGHT!
THEY'RE GATE-KEEPERS.
WHAT LUCK! I'M GLAD I BROUGHT THE INSECTICIDE
I'LL GET THIS ONE BEFORE THE KID.
CLUTCH CLUTCH
PFA
CLICK
SHHHHHH
SHHHHHHHHHH
SHALL I START NOW...?
DIG DIG

THERE.. HOW BEAUTIFUL...
SUCH A GORGEOUS STRIPE...
ACK/
HEY YOU/ STOP DIGGING/
WE FOUND IT FIRST, BASTARD/
SHIT, SOMEONE'S HERE/
GOTTA HURRY/
DAMN, IT'S STUCK IN THE ROOT/
DIG
DIG
DIG
YOU/ COME HERE/
DASH
PUSH
SHIT/

GOT IT!
HEY WAIT!
WAAAAIT! DAMN IT!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
HAAA HAAA
I'M BEAT.

I DID IT..
2
BLOOD
2
OH...
I GUESS I HURT A MOLE OR SOMETHING WHEN I CUT OFF THE ROOT.
ANYWAY,
I'LL TAKE A BATH AND CALL IT A NIGHT.
THE NEXT DAY
TAKANO/ TAKANO/
BAM BAM
TAKANO/

YORIKO? WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS EARLY..
GUESS WHAT HAPPENED!
THE MISSING BOY WAS FOUND!
HIS BODY WAS FOUND BY BEE HUNTERS... HE WAS BURIED IN THE WOODS.
BUT HIS HEAD WAS CHOPPED OFF!
WHEN THEY FOUND THE BODY, IT WAS STILL BLEEDING..
THEY ALSO SAW A MAN RUN AWAY WITH THE BOY'S HEAD, AND THE POLICE ARE AFTER HIM!
HE REALLY WAS BURIED IN THE WOODS!!
SLAM
TAKANO! TAKANO!?
KNOCK KNOCK
WHAT'S WRONG?! OPEN UP!

RUN AWAY WITH THE HEAD?!
THAT BLOOD...
SQUEAK
SOMEBODY... PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
WHA...
WHAT THE...

AIGH!!!
HIS HEAD IS INSIDE THE HIVE!
THE GIANT HORNETS MUST HAVE BUILT THE BEEHIVE AROUND HIS BURIED HEAD...
BUT... HOW? AND WHY?

THE HORNET I SAW HAD A BIG CHUNK OF TUNA.
...SO THE FOOD WAS FOR THE BOY...AND THAT MEANS...
WAS HE BURIED ALIVE?!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HORNETS WERE CARING FOR A BOY, BUT..
IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION I CAN THINK OF!
IT WAS HIS NECK, NOT A ROOT OF THE TREE...
I CUT HIS HEAD OFF WITHOUT KNOWING IT...
BOOOM
ACK!
ZOOM
TMP

THE GIANT HORNETS //
BZZZZ
HOW DID THEY GET IN HERE?!
THERE MUST BE A HOLE SOME-WHERE!
ZOOM BOOM
WAAA!!!
AYIIIEEE!!!
ZOOM!
BITE
BITE
CHOMP
THE HORNETS STARTED TO MAKE MEAT BALLS FROM MY BODY... TO FEED THE BOY...
THEN THEY'LL START TO MEND THE BROKEN HIVE.
SOON, THEIR HOME WILL BE WHOLE AGAIN.

BEEHIVE / END

DYING YOUNG

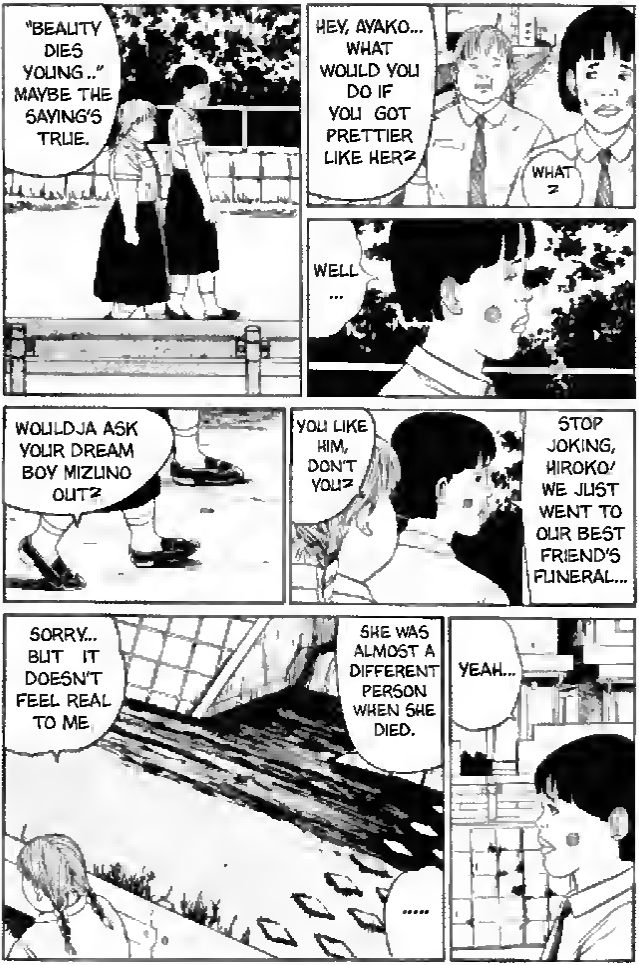
MY FRIEND CHIZURU GOT PRETTIER.
SHE TRANS-FORMED WITHIN A MONTH.
THEY SAY BEING YOUNG OR IN LOVE MAKES GIRLS PRETTIER, BUT...
TOILET
IN CHIZURU'S CASE, SHE BECAME A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GIRL... NOW I CAN BARELY FIND HER FORMER SELF..
HOW DID YOU GET SO PRETTY, CHIZURU?
I HAVE NO IDEA...

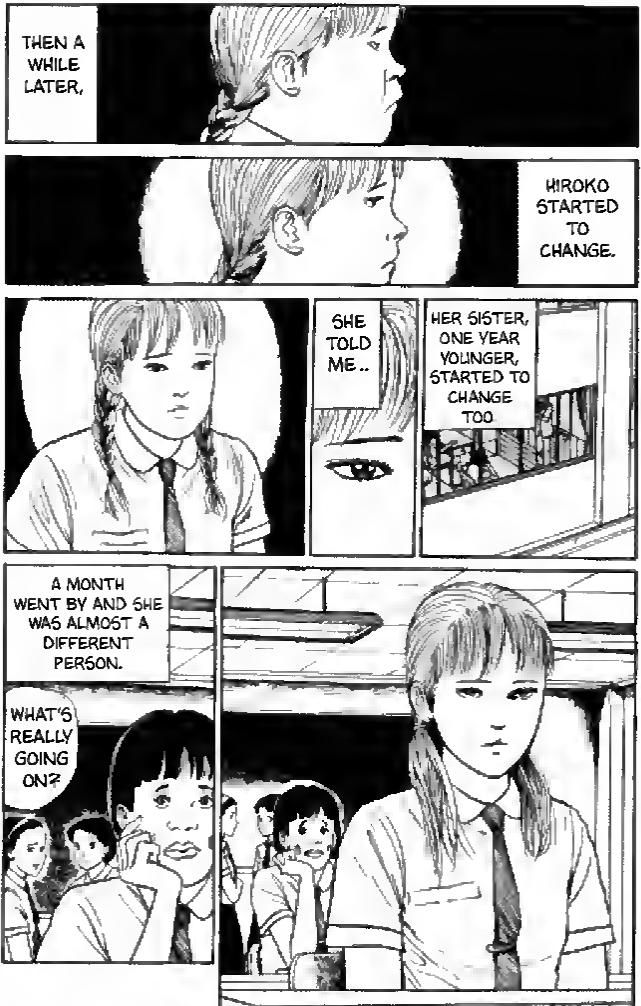
SHE SEEMED TO BE PUZZLED TOO.
BUT SHE ALSO SEEMED HAPPY WITH HER NEW LOOKS.
CHIZURU
WE'LL GO NOW.
SOME SAID SHE HAD PLASTIC SURGERY, BUT IT WASN'T TRUE.
SHE WAS BECOMING PRETTIER SLOWLY, JUST LIKE BLOOMING FLOWERS.
TOILET
LET'S GO, HIROKO ...
OKAY.

THERE SHE IS
CHIZURU TANAKA USED TO BE ONE OF "THE UGLY TRIO" IN OUR GRADE.
HUH? FOR REAL?
INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT?
AMAZING... HOW COULD SHE CHANGE LIKE THAT...?
IT'S REAL I KNOW 'COS I'M IN HER CLASS.
YEAH ?
BUT SHE DOESN'T LOOK SO HEALTHY
YEAH ...

THIS WAS TRUE. SHE LOOKED STUNNING, BUT ALSO SOMEWHAT ANEMIC.
AND A MONTH LATER,
SHE GOT EVEN MORE LOVELY.
SHE MADE EVERY HEAD TURN.
BUT ...
TWO AND A HALF MONTHS LATER,
SHE COLLAPSED AND DIED WHILE RUNNING ON THE TRACK.
SHE HAD A HEART ATTACK.

AYAKO..
WHAT?
THAT'S HOW CHIZURU USED TO LOOK.
GOD, IT WAS ALL SO STRANGE.
THEY DISSECTED HER BODY AT THE HOSPITAL.
NO ONE KNOWS WHY HER LOOKS CHANGED... IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HER DEATH..
YOU TWO! BE QUIET!


"BEAUTY DIES YOUNG.." MAYBE THE SAYING'S TRUE.
HEY, AYAKO... WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU GOT PRETTIER LIKE HER?
WHAT?
WELL...
WOULDJA ASK YOUR DREAM BOY MIZUNO OUT?
YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?
STOP JOKING, HIROKO! WE JUST WENT TO OUR BEST FRIEND'S FUNERAL...
SORRY... BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL REAL TO ME.
SHE WAS ALMOST A DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN SHE DIED.
.....
YEAH...


THEN A WHILE LATER,
HIROKO STARTED TO CHANGE.
SHE TOLD ME..
HER SISTER, ONE YEAR YOUNGER, STARTED TO CHANGE TOO
A MONTH WENT BY AND SHE WAS ALMOST A DIFFERENT PERSON.
WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON?

GOOD MORNING HIROKO!
HELLO, YUKARI.
YOU LOOK EXTRA PRETTY TODAY
WHAT'S THE SECRET?
FACIALS? WHAT?
I'M NOT DOING A THING
SO WEIRD! FIRST CHIZURU AND NOW YOU....
AND YOUR SISTER TOO, RIGHT?
MAYBE I CAN BE PRETTY TOO IF I KEEP SITTING NEXT TO YOU.
HOPE IT'S CONTA-GIOUS...
UGH! YUKARI'S ALL OVER HIROKO NOW. SHE USED TO TAUNT HER AND THE REST OF THE "UGLY 3."

"THE UGLY THREE," HUH?
IT'S "THE UGLY ONE" NOW!
LOOK, MY ACNE IS GONE.
DOES THIS MEAN I'M NEXT TO GET PRETTY?
REALLY? LET ME SEE!
IT'S GONE!
...AND THE "R" IS AN ACTUAL NUMBER, SO...
YOU JUST ASSIGN IT IN THIS FORMULA
MIZUNO...

DING DONG
EVERYONE RISE!
CLASS E
DEAD

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AYAKO?
LET'S GO HOME.
OK.
WHAT'S WRONG AYAKO? YOU LOOK GLUM.
CLICK
FLOP FLOP
OH NO, NOT AGAIN.
WHAT'S THAT?
LOVE LETTERS... I GET THEM A LOT LATELY.
I NEVER GOT ONE WHEN I WAS UGLY.
THAT'S HOW GUYS ARE.

OH, BY THE WAY...
HUH?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MIZUNO?
UM ...
I DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS TOWARDS HIM...
OH?
GOOD!
HEY AYAKO! YOU SHOULD GET PRETTY TOO!
WHA.. WHAT?
IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN TO ME..
YES IT WILL! IT HAPPENED TO ME!
IT MUST BE CATCHING!
I DON'T KNOW HOW CHIZURU GOT IT BUT I KNOW I GOT IT FROM HER!
EVEN YUKARI GOT IT...
I DIDN'T WANT HER TO, SHE JUST DID.

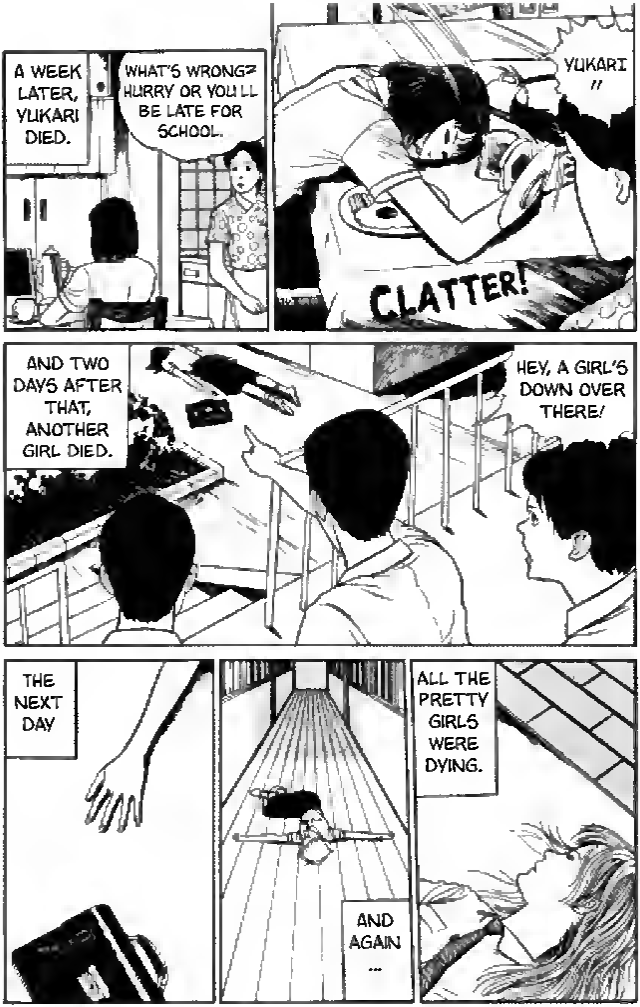
HIROKO WAS RIGHT. A WEEK LATER, I COULD CLEARLY SEE THE CHANGES IN YUKARI.
AND JUST LIKE HIROKO, SHE LOOKED SOMEWHAT ANEMIC...
IT BECAME WIDELY KNOWN AMONG THE GIRLS,
AND THEY STARTED TO SURROUND HIROKO AND YUKARI.
EVEN GIRLS IN OTHER CLASSES ...
THE GIRLS TOUCHED THEM EVERY CHANCE THEY GOT, TRYING TO CATCH WHAT THEY HAD.

THEN ...
THE NUMBER OF PRETTY-YET-ANEMIC GIRLS GREW
I DON'T GET IT.
WE'LL BE MORE PRETTY, I THINK.
A MODEL AGENCY AGENT SCOUTED ME ON THE STREET THE OTHER DAY
REALLY ?
THERE GOES HIROKO.
SHE LOOKS EVEN BETTER, DON'T YOU THINK?
SHE'S WITH MIZUNO.
OH!
SHE NEVER CHANGES A BIT.
ISN'T SHE GETTING IT...? SHE MUST BE IMMUNE.

AT THIS POINT, 1/4 OF THE GIRLS HAVE CHANGED.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOW CAN ONE'S LOOKS TRANS-FORM LIKE THAT?
IT'S VERY STRANGE I CAN'T FIND AN EXPLANA-TION.
RIGHT.. SOME-HOW IT ONLY AFFECTS GIRLS...
NOT ONLY THAT, MORE GIRLS ARE GETTING IT.
BUT I THINK IT'S BECAUSE THE END OF THE CENTURY IS COMING.
MAYBE IT'S A STRAINED THEORY.
A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED NEAR THE ENDS OF CENTURIES PAST
THE END OF..?
LOOK AT THOSE GIRLS. DON'T YOU THINK THEIR BEAUTY SIGNIFIES THE END OF THE CENTURY?

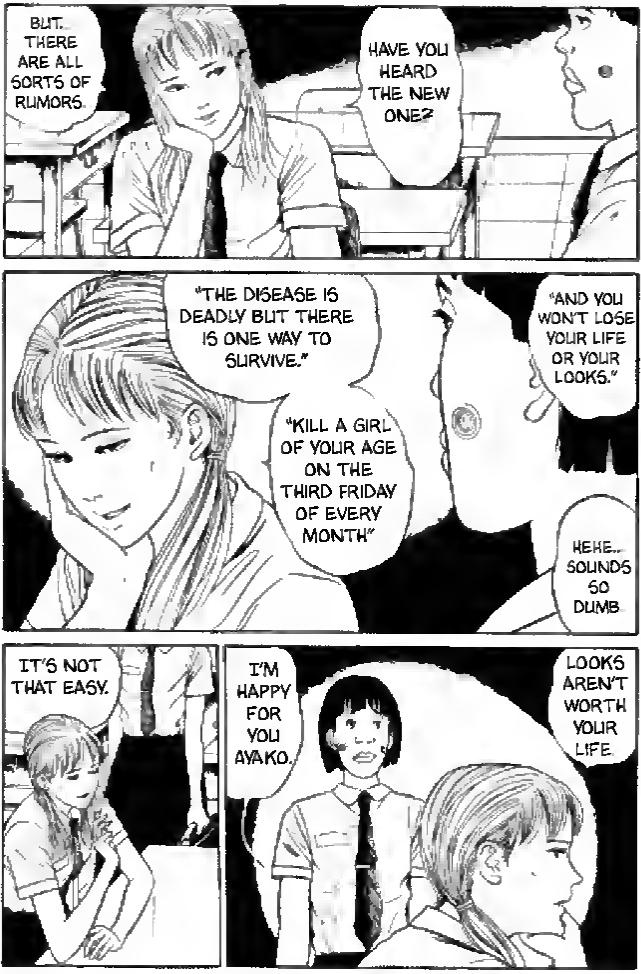
THAT'S KAORI.
OH...
WHO?
MY SISTER ....
KAORI!
WHY'RE YOU HERE, ALL ALONE?
HIROKO ...

YOU TWO LOOK SO ALIKE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I JUST..
FEEL SICK...
STAGGER
KAORI!!
THUD
KAORI! KAORI!
O GOD, I CAN'T FEEL HER PULSE!
I'LL GET HELP!
KAORI DIED THAT DAY.
KAORI!


A WEEK LATER, YUKARI DIED.
WHAT'S WRONG? HURRY OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
YUKARI !!
CLATTER!
AND TWO DAYS AFTER THAT, ANOTHER GIRL DIED.
HEY, A GIRL'S DOWN OVER THERE!
THE NEXT DAY
AND AGAIN ...
ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS WERE DYING.

THEIR CONSTANT DEATHS STARTED A RUMOR THAT SAID...
ALL THE DEAD GIRLS WERE INFECTED WITH A DISEASE
THAT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL BEFORE YOU DIE...
ARE WE DYING TOO...?
NO! I DON'T WANNA DIE YET!

HIROKO
MORNING
HEEHEE. GOOD FOR THEM.
THEY USED TO THANK ME AND FOLLOW ME
NOW THEY ALL IGNORE ME, EVEN MIZUNO. I FEEL RELIEVED.
I HAVE NO REGRETS
I'D RATHER DIE YOUNG AND PRETTY..
THAN BE UGLY AND OLD.
BESIDES, I DON'T BELIEVE THE RUMORS.
LOOK AT ME, I'M STILL OK WHAT DOES THAT SAY?
Y.. YOU'RE RIGHT


BUT... THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF RUMORS.
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEW ONE?
"THE DISEASE IS DEADLY BUT THERE IS ONE WAY TO SURVIVE."
"KILL A GIRL OF YOUR AGE ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH"
"AND YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR LIFE OR YOUR LOOKS."
HEHE... SOUNDS SO DUMB
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU AYAKO.
LOOKS AREN'T WORTH YOUR LIFE.

THE DEATHS OF THE GIRLS WENT ON.
KYAAA!
HOSPITALS WERE CROWDED WITH FRIGHTENED GIRLS.
DOCTOR AFTER DOCTOR LOOKED FOR THE CAUSE OF THE DISEASE.
BUT ITS CAUSE WAS NEVER FOUND.
WITH NO CAUSATIVE FACTOR, NO ONE COULD VERIFY ITS INFECTIVITY
ONE TEACHER'S THEORY OF AN "END OF THE CENTURY DISEASE" PROVED PERSUASIVE.

THEN ONE NIGHT
LATELY, MY FRIENDS DON'T COME TO SCHOOL
EVEN HIROKO'S BEEN GONE FOR A WEEK.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO VISIT HER.
HUH?
SHE LOOKS SICK ...
BUT THAT MUST BE HIROKO.

AND THE OTHER TWO PRETTY GIRLS...
WHERE ARE THEY GOING THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
HUFF HUFF
ARE WE GONNA FIND SOMEONE, HIROKO?
WE WILL... SOMEONE MUST BE OUT HERE.
HIROKO... IS THE RUMOR TRUE?
WHO KNOWS. BUT WE HAVE TO TRY IT.
CAN I ASK YOU GUYS A FAVOR? PLEASE LET ME DO THE FIRST ONE.. I.. I'VE BEEN FEELING SO SICK.
I MUST HURRY... OR I COULD DIE SOON.

TODAY IS A THIRD FRIDAY.
ARE THEY
ARE THEY GOING TO KILL SOMEONE?!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
SEE YA!
BYE...
HUH AHUH

I'VE GO TO STAY ALIVE!
ACK
YEEE!
HIROKO! STOP!

AYAKO ...
HELP, SOMEBODY!
WAIT!
MOVE, HIROKO.

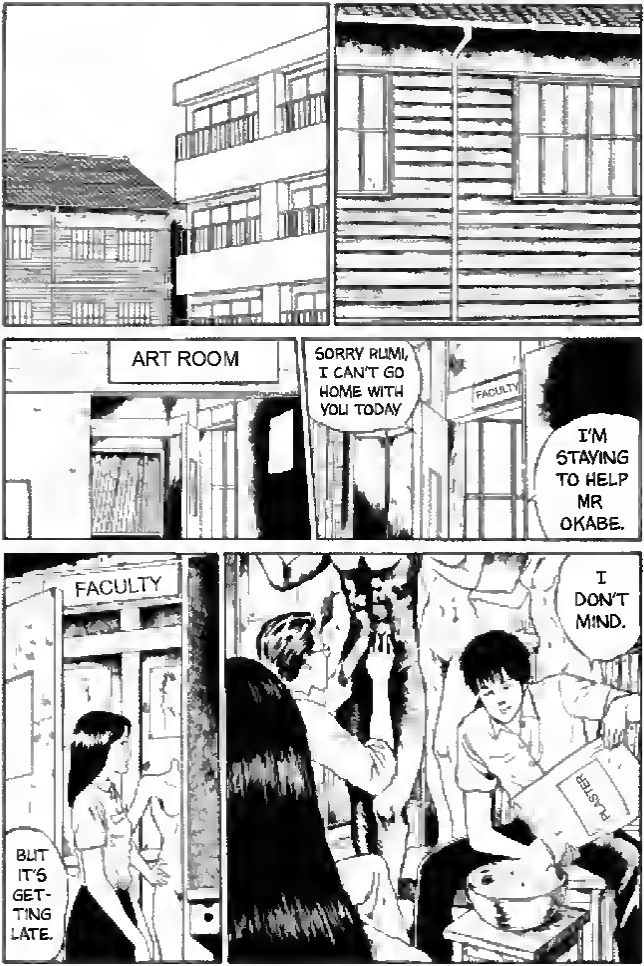
I'LL DO IT.
YOU LOST YOUR TURN.
Fun
I'LL GET HER
PANT PANT
HAAAA HAAAA
PANT PANT
WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU CAN GO? IT'S A DEAD END STREET...
YOU WITH THE GLASSES ...
HUH?

I DID IT...
IF THE RUMOR'S TRUE, I WON'T DIE NOW.
HEE HEE
DAN
HEEHEEHEE
WHY, YOU!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STOPPED ME.
HIROKO!
H... HIROKO, DON'T BE CRAZY...
PANT PANT
DON'T YOU REALIZE IT'S JUST A STUPID RUMOR?! HOW CAN KILLING SOMEONE SAVE YOUR LIFE?!

HEY, HOLD AYAKO FOR ME SO THAT I CAN STAB HER.
NOW!
I...
I DON'T WANT TO.
SORRY. GOOD BYE.
COWARD.
HIROKO. PLEASE STOP! DON'T DO IT!
SHUT UP! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL. YOU'LL GET TO SEE THE 21ST CENTURY, BUT NOT ME!
AN UGLY GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE DYING!!

DYING YOUNG / END

HEADLESS SCULPTURES


ART ROOM
SORRY RUMI, I CAN'T GO HOME WITH YOU TODAY
FACULTY
I'M STAYING TO HELP MR OKABE.
FACULTY
BUT IT'S GET-TING LATE.
I DON'T MIND.
PLASTER

YOU SHOULD GO HOME, SHIMADA.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO GO, MR. OKABE.
MOM AND DAD ARE OUT OF TOWN.
BESIDES, WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE?
YOUR EXHIBIT IS OPENING SOON.
I JUST WANT TO HELP, AS PART OF THE ART CLUB.
YOUR WORK IS SO UNIQUE! HEADLESS SCULPTURES... OF ALL VARIETIES...
IT'S GREAT YOU'RE HAVING YOUR OWN EXHIBIT, MR. OKABE. YOU MAY BE FAMOUS ONE DAY..

WELL, I MADE THEM HEADLESS NOT BECAUSE I WAS LAZY...
OMITTED FACES HAVE LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES... THIS IS MY MESSAGE.
FACES ARE POINT-LESS IN ART.
HUMAN FACES EXPRESS SO MUCH, BUT THE FACES IN FAMOUS PAINTINGS ...WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THOSE FACES SHOW EITHER NO EXPRESSIONS OR THIN SMILES.
SO..
WHO REALLY NEEDS IT?
THE FACE AT THE BOTTOM OF MY GLASS WILL DO FOR ME.
HUH?
WOW! YOU TALK LIKE A REAL ARTIST
DON'T BE SILLY, I AM AN ARTIST
SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE MAKING ONE WITH A HEAD.
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK YOU TO MODEL.
FINE, BUT I WON'T TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES!

THAT'S TOO BAD!
YOU NEED TO STOP IT! I'M GOING HOME
OH, RUMI'S MAD NOW, SIR.
DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I'M STAYING LATE.
YEAH, I KNOW, I KNOW.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
HEY, HOLD ON A SEC!
ART ROOM
..THE OLD BUILDING IS SPOOKY. ONLY THE ART ROOM'S OPEN AND THE REST ARE DARK, EMPTY CLASSROOMS.
THOSE TWO ARE QUITE NERVY TO STAY HERE SO LATE.

THE NEXT DAY
IS SHIMADA STILL SLEEP?
DID HE STAY UP LATE LAST NIGHT?
WHO IS IT?
HI SHIMADA, IT'S ME. HURRY, WE'RE LATE!
OH, HI RUMI... I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD.
I'LL BE ABSENT TODAY.
....
CLICK!
ARE YOU OK?

BUSTLE
BUSTLE
WHAT THE...?
BUSTLE BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MR. OKABE GOT KILLED!
REALLY?!

A STUDENT FOUND HIM DEAD IN THE ART ROOM.
AND HIS HEAD IS GONE!
THE HEAD... ?!
HIS HEADLESS BODY WAS LAYING ON THE FLOOR OF THE ART ROOM
I THINK HE STAYED LATE TO PREPARE FOR HIS EXHIBIT.
WAS HE ALONE? WAS ANYONE WITH HIM?
HE WAS ALONE. WE DON'T ALLOW STUDENTS TO STAY LATE, AND NO ONE SAW ANYTHING.
THE MURDER TOOK PLACE AROUND MIDNIGHT. COULD BE A PSYCHO.
NO CLASSES WERE HELD. AFTER AN EMERGENCY MEETING, ALL STUDENTS WERE SENT HOME.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT SHIMADA
I ALMOST TOLD THEM
SHIMADA
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO GET HIM IN TROUBLE.
BUT...
HE DID SOUND WEIRD THIS MORNING.
SOMETHING STOPPED ME FROM RINGING THE DOOR BELL
SO I JUST WENT HOME.
THE NEXT DAY
THAT UNIFORM ...
IT'S STILL SUMMER.

DING DONG
DING DONG
OFF LIMITS
ARE YOU GOING HOME ALONE?
SHIMADA ..
YOU DIDN'T COME BY THIS MORNING. I WAITED...
OFF LIMITS
I'M SORRY, I WAS IN RUSH. DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT COLD?
I GOT LOVESICK
..?
YOU HEARD ABOUT MR. OKABE ?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD... I TALKED TO HIM THAT DAY
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO DID IT?
MAYBE YOU SAW SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS ...
I DON'T KNOW
OK...
YOU THINK I KILLED HIM, HUH?
NO I DON'T!
WHY SHOULD I?
I WAS THE LAST ONE WHO SAW HIM BEFORE HE DIED. I WOULD NOT BLAME YOU.
I SAID, I DON'T THINK THAT! WHY ARE YOU SO WEIRD?

WEIRD ?
PEOPLE GET WEIRD WHEN THEY'RE IN LOVE.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU'RE SCARING ME...
YOU'RE SO PRETTY, RUMI...
SHIMADA ..?
I WAS ALWAYS WAITING FOR YOU TO COME TO THE ART ROOM.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MY HEART WAS BEATING WHEN I SAW YOU THERE?
LET'S GO FOR A WALK.
I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH

ATTENTION STUDENTS, IT'S TIME TO GO HOME NOW.
ALL STUDENTS MUST LEAVE THE SCHOOL PREMISES....
SANAE, WILL YOU GO TO THE ART ROOM WITH ME?
WHAT, THE ART ROOM?!
I LEFT MY BOOKS THERE. I NEED THEM FOR THE QUIZ TOMORROW.
OH, YOU WERE IN THE ART CLUB.
BUT IT'S OFF LIMITS NOW, YOU KNOW.
C'MON, NO ONE WILL KNOW
BUT I'M SCARED!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
KEEP OUT

SLIDE...
AUGH! IT'S SO SPOOKY!
SHUT UP AND GET INSIDE.
WHAT? WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST.
SLIDE...
THERE WAS A MURDER JUST TWO DAYS AGO.
LOOK...

THE FLOOR'S COVERED... THAT'S WHERE MR. OKABE'S BODY WAS LYING... THE FLOOR MUST BE STAINED WITH BLOOD.
...WHY DID HE GET KILLED?
SOMEONE WITH A GRUDGE, MAYBE?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE LIKE THAT...
HURRY UP, MASAMI!
YOU HAVE TO GO WITH ME.

HOW CRUEL
CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE CHOPPED HIS HEAD OFF...
...AND THE HEAD IS STILL MISSING..
C'MON, STOP IT!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HURRY MASAMI
OK, OK.
WHERE DID I PUT IT...
KLANG!

FACULTY
SOME-ONE'S HERE...
CRACK!
SQUEAK

MR. OKABE !
GYAAAAAAA !!!

ARE YOU SURE HE'S ALIVE, SHIMADA?
IT'S TRUE, RUMI. A... SITUATION FORCED HIM TO HIDE IN THE OLD BUILDING. I'M GOING TO SEE HIM TONIGHT.
SO WHOSE BODY WAS THAT..?
HUH? THE DOOR'S OPEN
SOMEONE GOT IN?
COME WITH ME...
YOU EVEN HAVE GLOVES ON.
..FEELS HARD

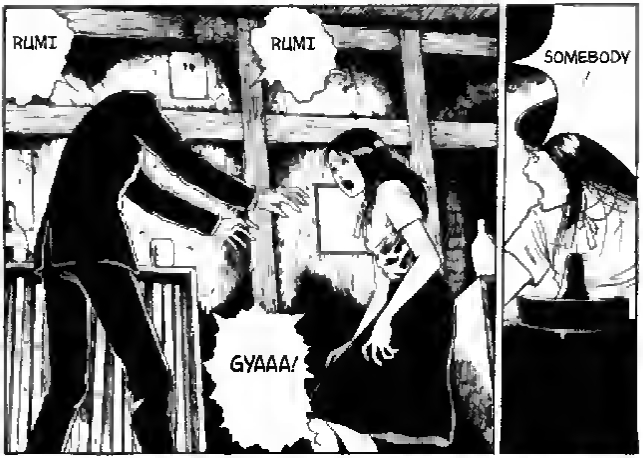
ART ROOM
WHERE'S MR OKABE?
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
FACULTY
CLICK
SUSPICIOUS
LET'S WAIT HERE.
UNTIL HE COMES...
HEY, YOU SMELL SOMETHING?
LIKE SOMETHING'S SPOILED...

ALL THE SCULPTURES EXCEPT ONE ARE GONE. DID THE POLICE TAKE THEM?
ONLY THE STANDS ARE LEFT. WEIRD.
CLANG
KLANG KLANG
ACK
WHY'D YOU LOCK THE DOOR?
MY GOD!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHIMADA?! YOU'RE BLEEDING FROM YOUR MOUTH!

IT'S NOTHNG.
S... SHIMADA,
WHERE'S MR. OKABE?
...WHERE DID THAT VOICE COME FROM?
... HE'S BEEN IN THIS ROOM ALREADY.
SEE?

AIIEEEEE!!
SPLORT
HERE GOES THE GREAT ARTIST, MR. OKABE.
PUT
OH RUMI, YOU'VE GOT SUCH A PRETTY FACE..
THUD
RUMI.
RUMI!

NOOO/
SLAP
THUD
GYAAA/


RUMI
RUMI
GYAAA!
SOMEBODY

SOMEBODY
HELP!

RUMI
BAM!

THUD!
THE SCULPTURE ...
WHY...
IT WON'T OPEN!
IT WON'T...
KLANG KLANG KLANG
GICK GICK
KLANG KLANG KLANG

STEP STEP
OH NO/
WHY, YOU... HOW COULD YOU KILL MY FIANCE/
YOU.../ GIVE ME YOUR HEAD/ GIVE IT TO ME.../
WAAH/
KLANG KLANG KLANG
EEE/

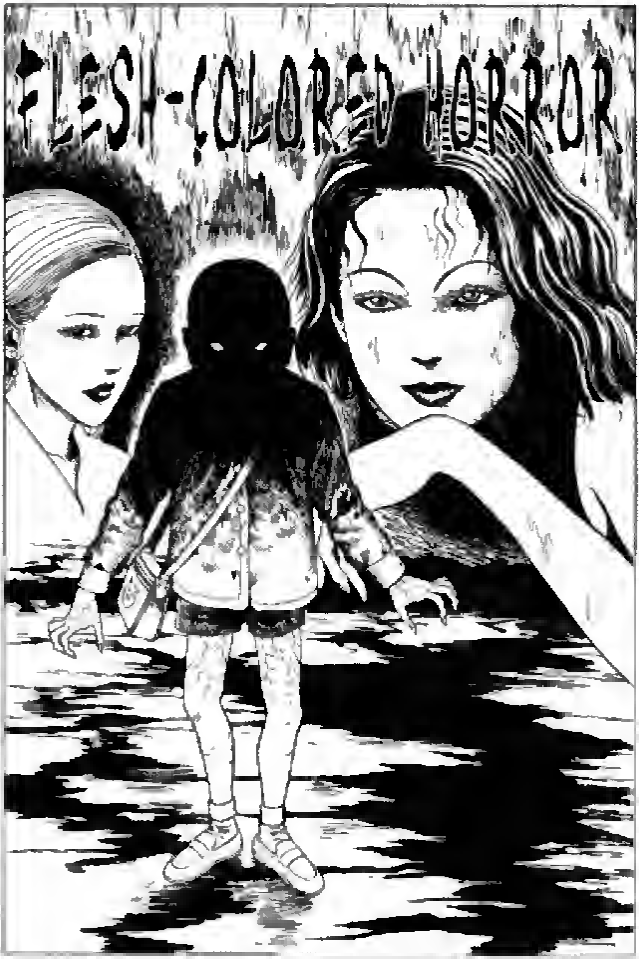
FACULTY
BAM!
WOOSH
PLEASE HELP ME!
HEE HEE

KYAAA!
HEE
HEE
HEE
SLAM
AIGH!

THE SCULPTURES TOOK THEIR HEADS...
BUT ..
WHO ARE THESE TWO..?
CLUTTER CLUTTER
CLUTTER CLUTTER
CLUTTER CLUTTER
CLUTTER CLUTTER
CLUTTER CLUTTER

CLUTTER CLUTTER
THEY'RE FLOCKING TO EACH HEAD.
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR THE HEADS.
HEY!
HEY!
GUESS WHAT WE HAVE NOW!
THAT FACE IS MINE!
SOME-ONE'S HERE!
AND SHE'S SO PRETTY
OH NO, IT'LL BE MINE!
TOOM TOOM TOOM
AIGH!

HEADLESS SCULPTURES / END


FLESH-COLORED HORROR

MY NAME IS MOMOKO TAKIGAWA. ON A DARK STREET, ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK, I SAW SOMETHING HORRIBLE.
AHR?
AHR?
HUMM.... SOME SAY THAT A MONSTER WANDERS AROUND THIS STREET..
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE MAIN STREET
WALK
WALK

SPLASH!
EEEE!
OH MY GOD...
DASH
WHA.. WHAT IS THIS?!
IT SMELLS SO BAD...
HOW COULD SHE...
WHAT A DAY...

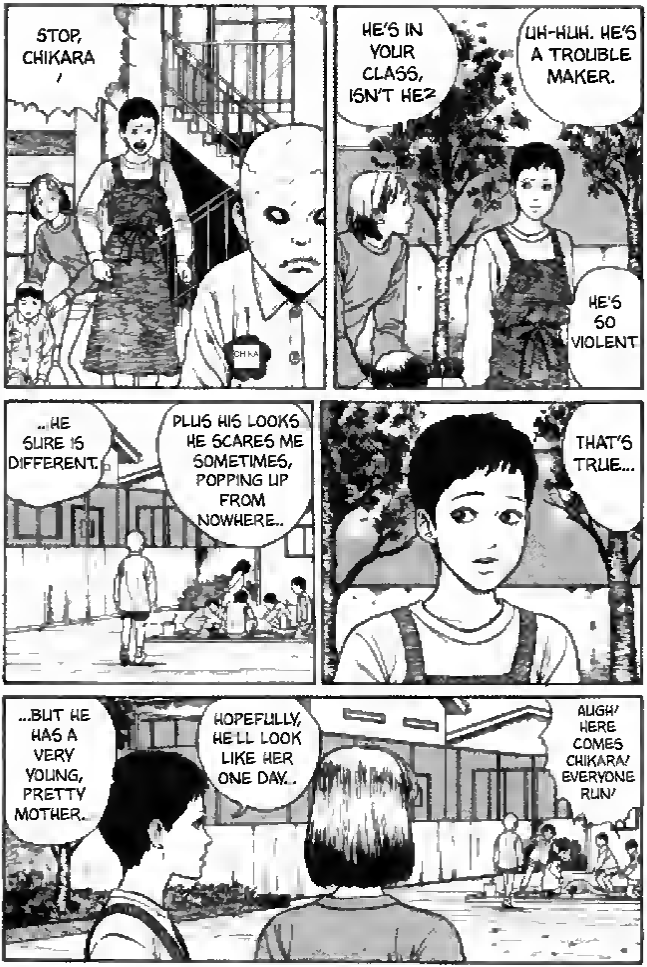
IT'S DRYING OUT.
IT BURNS.
IS IT SOME KIND OF GLUE??
OUCH OUCH OUCH
PEEL
WHO WAS THAT AND WHY...?
OH, MY OUT-FIT'S RUINED TOO.
I MANAGED TO RIP THE STICKY STUFF OFF MY BODY.
BUT MY HAIR WAS HOPELESS; I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO CUT IT.
THIS IS AWFUL ...

HIKARIYAMA KINDERGARTEN
WAAA!
SUNFLOWER CLASS
YOUR HAIR!
WAHA HA!
I GOT A MAKE OVER!
HOW DO I LOOK?
NOT GOOD!
YOU LOOK LIKE A BABY!
LIKE A BOY!

....SO, MY WORLD IS UPSIDE DOWN
DID YOU TELL THE POLICE, MISS TAKIGAWA?
NO...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE CRYING YOURSELF TO SLEEP.
..BUT I HEAR THINGS LIKE THAT ARE QUITE COMMON LATELY.
BUSTLE BUSTLE
BUSTLE BUSTLE
BUSTLE BUSTLE
BUSTLE BUSTLE
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HEY YUTA, MY TURN!
NO IT'S NOT!
IT'S MY TURN!
SQUEAK
NO WAY!
Y... YUTA...

OOPS.
CHIKARA
YUTA
YUTA... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
GYAAA!
WHAT IS IT!
WAAA!

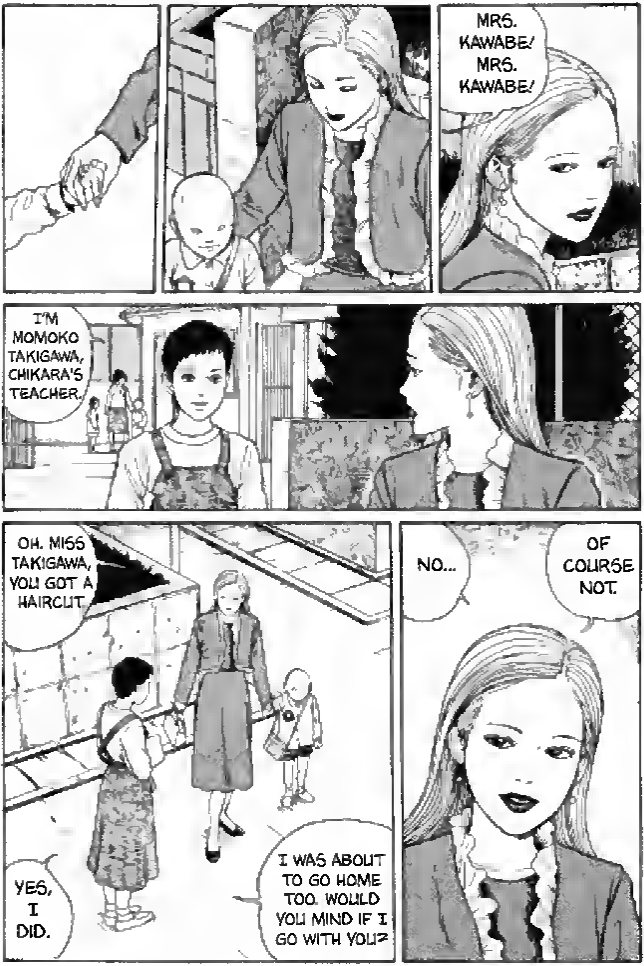
WHAT'S WRONG, YUTA?
CHIKARA SCRATCHED ME!
NOT AGAIN, CHIKARA!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE TO PLAY NICE?
LET ME SEE... AH, JUST A TINY SCRATCH. YOU'LL BE OK.
TELL YUTA YOU'RE SORRY!

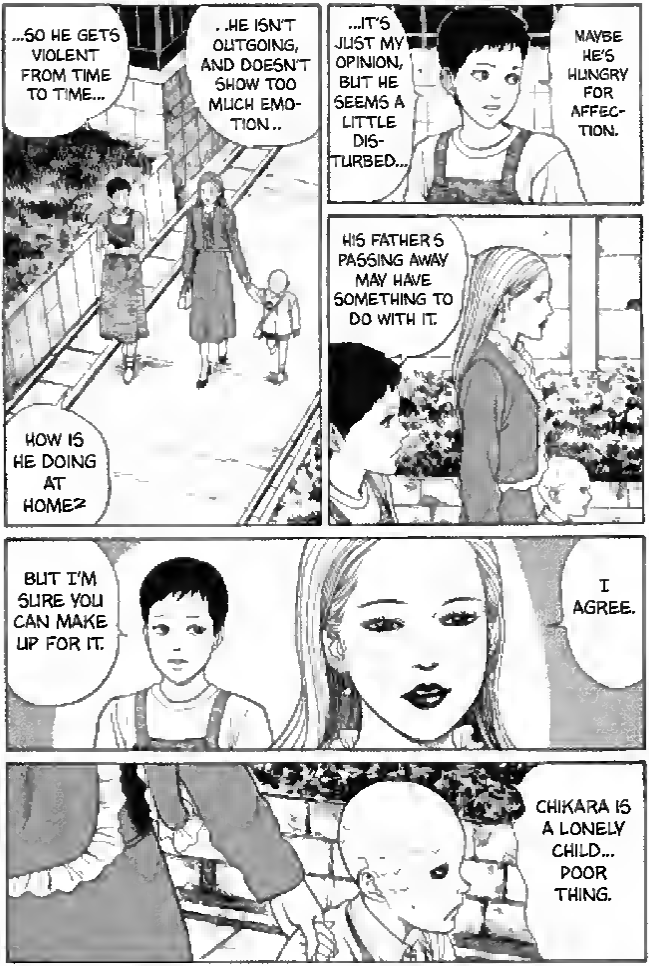

STOP, CHIKARA
CHIKA
HE'S IN YOUR CLASS, ISN'T HE?
UH-HUH. HE'S A TROUBLE MAKER.
HE'S SO VIOLENT
..HE SURE IS DIFFERENT.
PLUS HIS LOOKS HE SCARES ME SOMETIMES, POPPING UP FROM NOWHERE..
THAT'S TRUE...
..BUT HE HAS A VERY YOUNG, PRETTY MOTHER..
HOPEFULLY, HE'LL LOOK LIKE HER ONE DAY..
AUGH! HERE COMES CHIKARA! EVERYONE RUN!

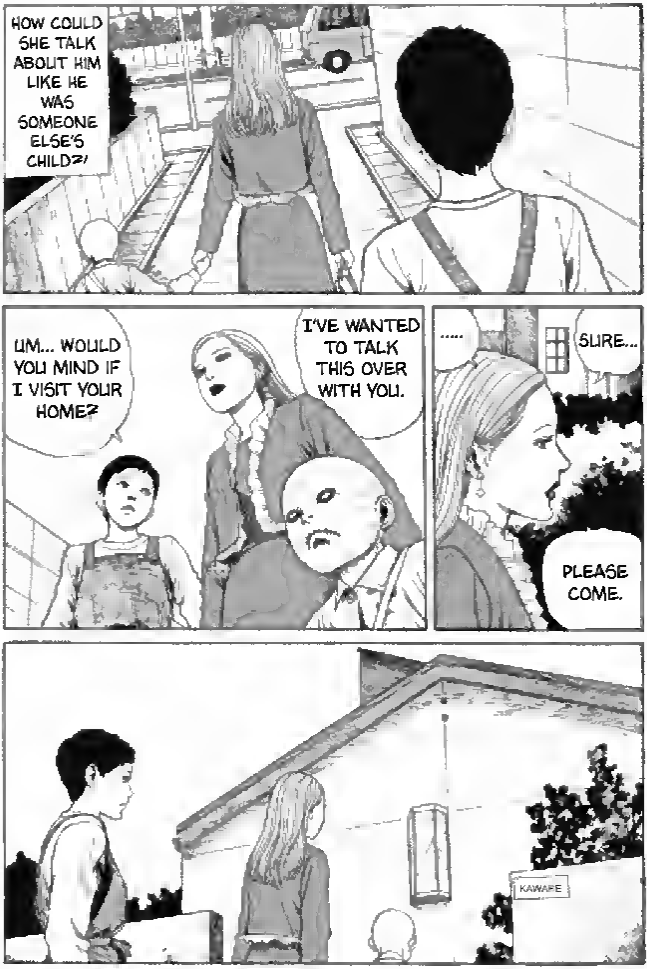
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
OH! CHIKARA'S RIPPING THE PAINTINGS AGAIN!
AGAIN ?!
HEY CHIKARA! STOP IT!
RIP
RIP

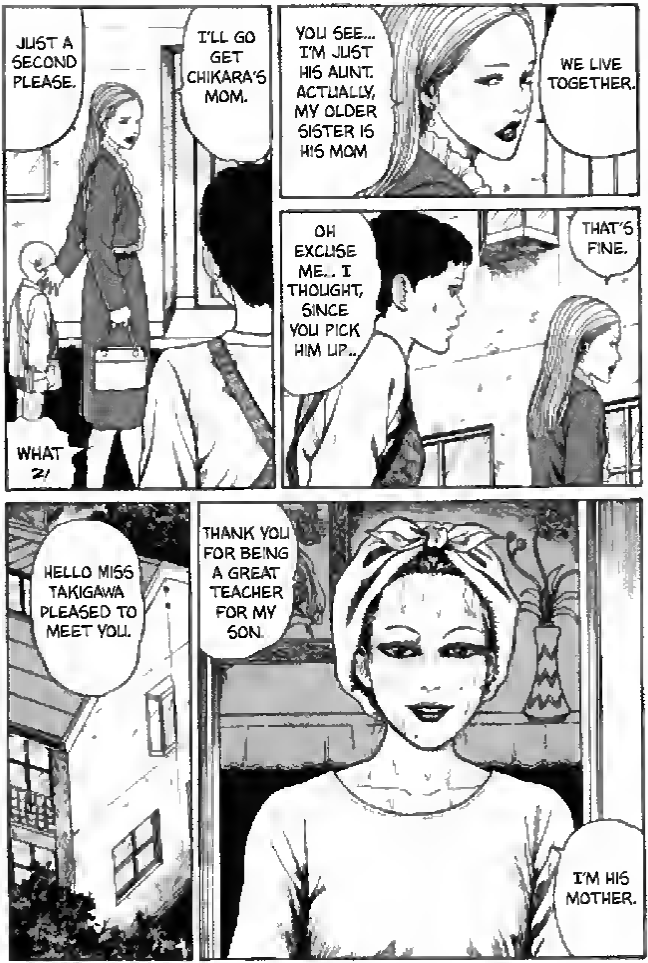
WHY DO YOU TEAR UP OUR WORK?! WE WORKED HARD ON THESE!
TELL ME WHY!
.....
I'M NOT TEARING ...
THIS IS THE PEELING ...
SAME THING! ENOUGH WITH THE SMART MOUTH!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU NOID!
CLARE
KOSUKE ..
DO YOU WANT ME TO PEEL THE SKIN OFF YOUR FACE?
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN..
BOOO
BOOO

THE OTHER KIDS WERE TRULY AFRAID OF CHIKARA'S LOOKS, BRUTALITY, AND DEVILISH BEHAVIOR.
BYE NOW.
SEE YOU TOMORROW
HI CHIKARA, LET'S GO HOME.

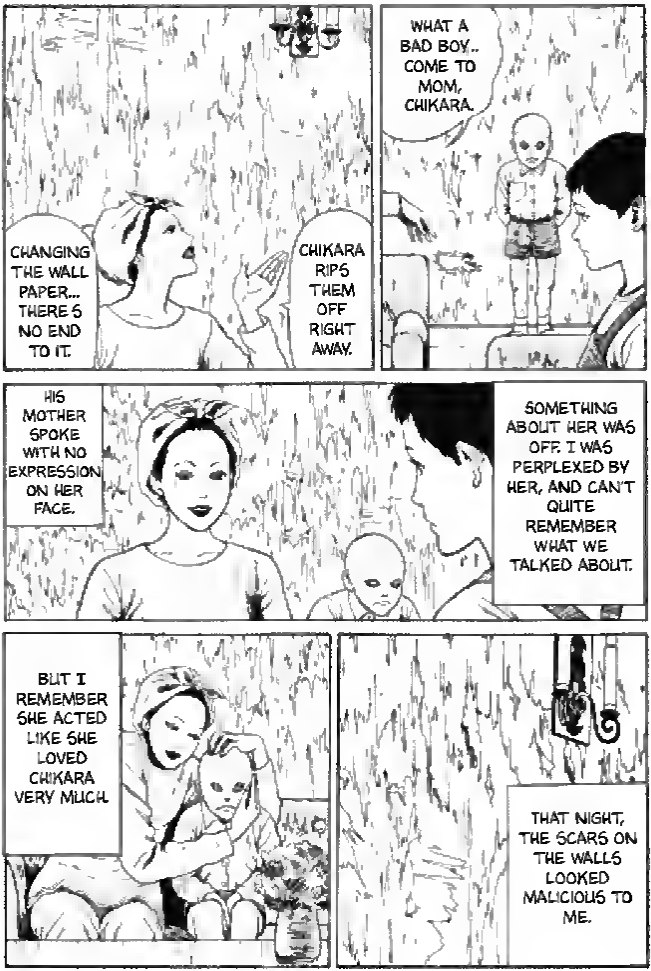

MRS. KAWABE! MRS. KAWABE!
I'M MOMOKO TAKIGAWA, CHIKARA'S TEACHER.
OH. MISS TAKIGAWA, YOU GOT A HAIRCUT.
YES, I DID.
I WAS ABOUT TO GO HOME TOO. WOULD YOU MIND IF I GO WITH YOU?
NO...
OF COURSE NOT.


...SO HE GETS VIOLENT FROM TIME TO TIME...
..HE ISN'T OUTGOING, AND DOESN'T SHOW TOO MUCH EMOTION..
HOW IS HE DOING AT HOME?
...IT'S JUST MY OPINION, BUT HE SEEMS A LITTLE DISTURBED...
MAYBE HE'S HUNGRY FOR AFFECTION.
HIS FATHER'S PASSING AWAY MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR IT.
I AGREE.
CHIKARA IS A LONELY CHILD... POOR THING.


HOW COULD SHE TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE HE WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD?!
UM... WOULD YOU MIND IF I VISIT YOUR HOME?
I'VE WANTED TO TALK THIS OVER WITH YOU.
.....
SURE...
PLEASE COME.
KAWAFE


JUST A SECOND PLEASE.
I'LL GO GET CHIKARA'S MOM.
WHAT?!
YOU SEE... I'M JUST HIS AUNT. ACTUALLY, MY OLDER SISTER IS HIS MOM
WE LIVE TOGETHER.
OH EXCUSE ME... I THOUGHT, SINCE YOU PICK HIM UP...
THAT'S FINE.
HELLO MISS TAKIGAWA PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
THANK YOU FOR BEING A GREAT TEACHER FOR MY SON.
I'M HIS MOTHER.

SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT. I WAS TAKING A BATH.
NO NO, I'M SORRY FOR POPPING IN LIKE THIS.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BATHING.
NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M ALWAYS TAKING A BATH ANYWAY.
THIS WAY PLEASE.
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.


CHANGING THE WALL PAPER... THERE'S NO END TO IT.
CHIKARA RIPS THEM OFF RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT A BAD BOY.. COME TO MOM, CHIKARA.
HIS MOTHER SPOKE WITH NO EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.
SOMETHING ABOUT HER WAS OFF. I WAS PERPLEXED BY HER, AND CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.
BUT I REMEMBER SHE ACTED LIKE SHE LOVED CHIKARA VERY MUCH.
THAT NIGHT, THE SCARS ON THE WALLS LOOKED MALICIOUS TO ME.

I'M IN TROUBLE MISS TAKIGAWA.
HIKARIYAMA KINDERGARTEN
WHAT HAPPENED?
CHIKARA HURT A COUPLE OF KIDS AGAIN,
AND THEIR PARENTS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT HIM
IF HE KEEPS IT UP, WE'LL BE FORCED TO TAKE ACTION...
...
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
HEY SATORU, HAVE YOU SEEN CHIKARA?
NO.
MISS TAKIGAWA.
I SAW HIM CHASING KOSUKE.

WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
TO THE BATHROOM
AIIEEE!
GYAAH!
KOSUKE!
GYAAA!
KOSUKE
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE KOSUKE?!
TH .. THE SKIN ON YOUR FACE..

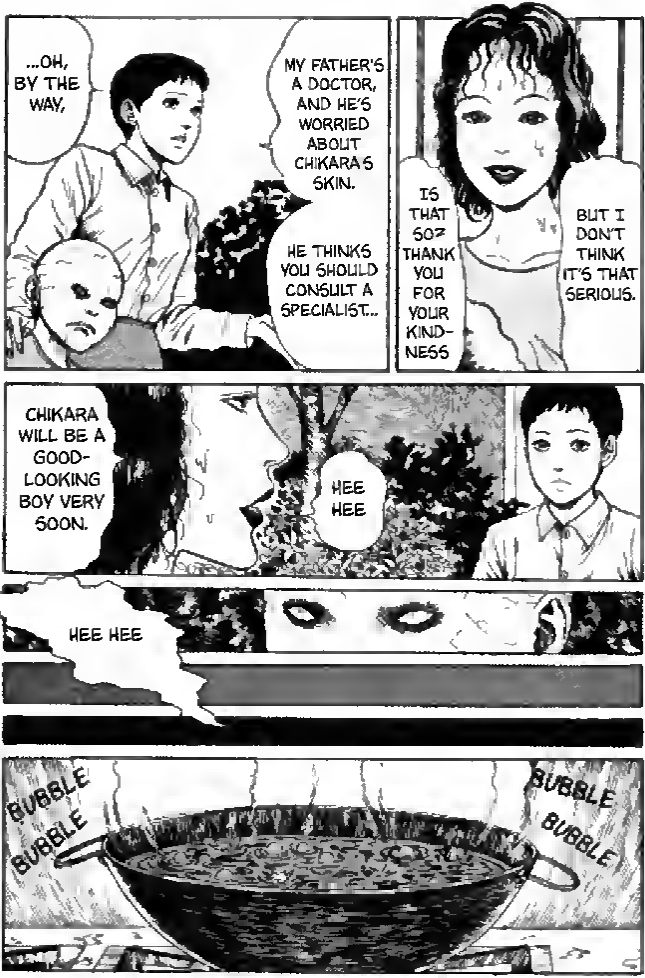
DIRECTOR! KOSUKE'S HURT!!
CHIKARA HURT KOSUKE PRETTY BADLY.
...AND HE WAS FINALLY EXPELLED FROM THE CLASS.
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE

BUT HE DIDN'T STOP COMING EVERY DAY,
AND CONTINUED TO SCARE THE OTHER KIDS.
CHIKARA! I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T COME HERE ANYMORE!
YOU HAVE TO GO HOME NOW!
NO... I DON'T WANNA GO HOME...
WHY NOT...?
ONE DAY, HE FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY TO MY APARTMENT...

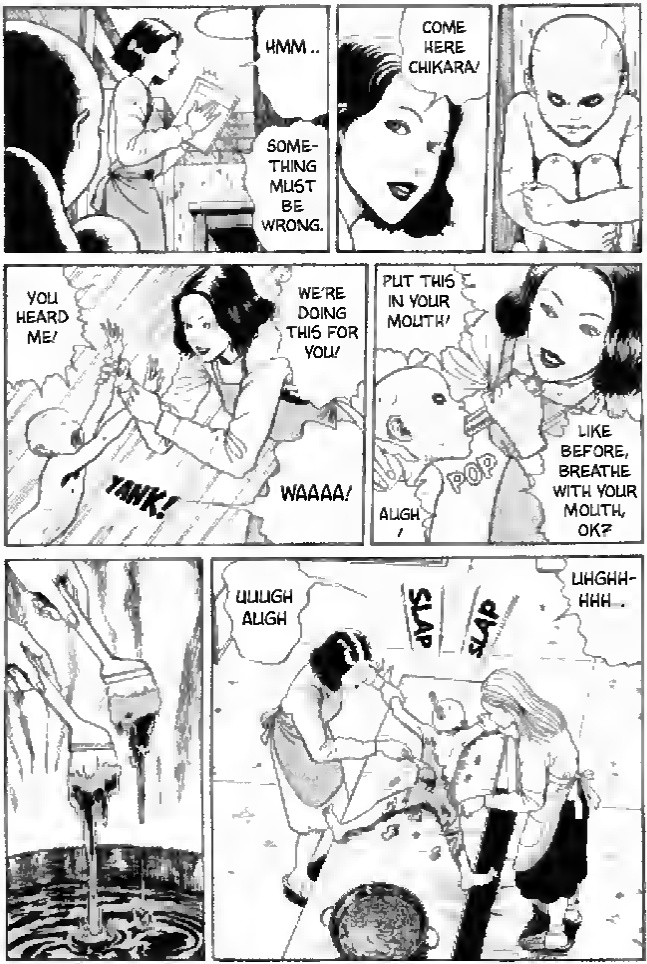
...WHAT CAN I SAY. .
COME IN, CHIKARA.
HELLO, MOMOKO.
I INVITED MYSELF IN.
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR HAIR?
OAD.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JUST HAD A MEETING NEAR HERE, SO I DECIDED TO STOP BY.
WHO'S THE KID?
ONE OF MY STUDENTS.. HE FOLLOWED ME HOME.
I SEE...
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE, SON.

HAS HIS SKIN ALWAYS BEEN DAMAGED LIKE THIS?
NOT SURE ...
BUT I THINK IT'S GOTTEN WORSE.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK, DAD?
HMM... IT'S NOT MY SPECIALTY, BUT HIS SKIN'S GETTING THINNER.
AND HIS FINGER-PRINTS ARE GONE.
IT'S SPREAD ALL OVER HIS BODY... DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS IS...
HE REALLY SHOULD CONSULT A SPECIALIST.
KEEPING HEALTHY SKIN IS IMPOR-TANT.

IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. YOUR MOM MUST BE WORRIED. C'MON, I'LL GO WITH YOU!
NO! I DON'T WANNA GO!
MY GOD, MISS TAKIGAWA, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY.
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A BAD BOY, CHIKARA.
I'M SORRY I INTERRUPTED YOUR BATH AGAIN.
PLEASE, DON'T BE SORRY.. HEHE.
...IS CHIKARA GOING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?
YES, WE'RE LOOKING NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW YET..
I SEE...

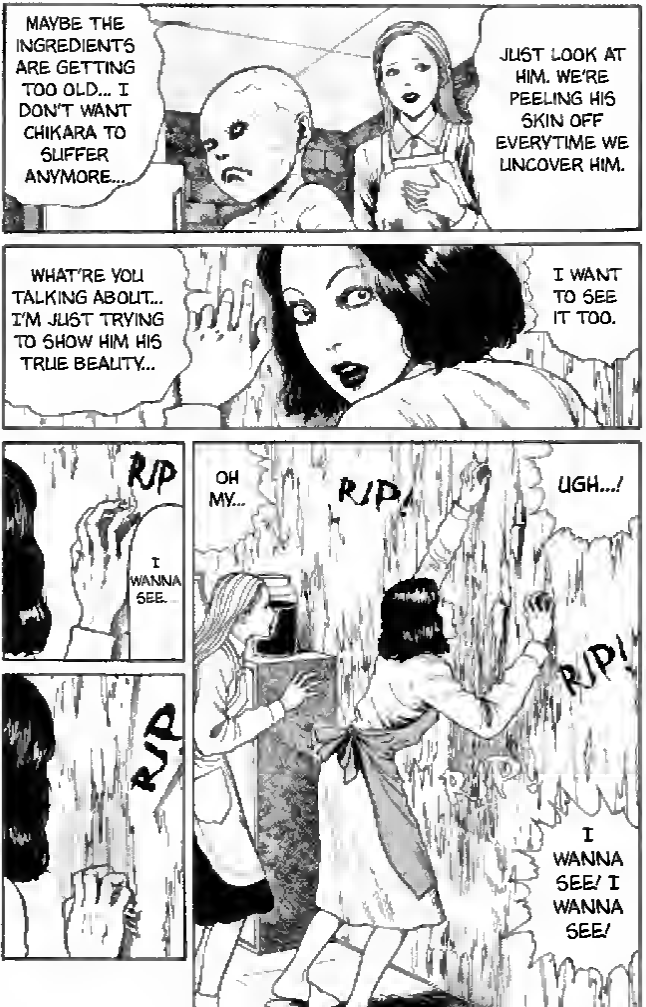

...OH, BY THE WAY,
MY FATHER'S A DOCTOR, AND HE'S WORRIED ABOUT CHIKARA'S SKIN.
HE THINKS YOU SHOULD CONSULT A SPECIALIST...
IS THAT SO? THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SERIOUS.
CHIKARA WILL BE A GOOD-LOOKING BOY VERY SOON.
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
BUBBLE BUBBLE
BUBBLE BUBBLE

IS IT READY, MAYA?
BUBBLE BUBBLE
YES, I THINK SO.
WE SHOULD DO FINE THIS TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO FAIL ANY-MORE.
I GUESS WE DIDN'T BLEND IT RIGHT LAST TIME.
FLAP FLAP
BUT WE DID FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS!


HMM..
SOME-THING MUST BE WRONG.
COME HERE CHIKARA!
YOU HEARD ME!
WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU!
YANK!
WAAAA!
PUT THIS IN YOUR MOUTH!
POP
ALIGH
LIKE BEFORE, BREATHE WITH YOUR MOUTH, OK?
ULLIGH ALIGH
SLAP
SLAP
UHGHH-HHH..

.....
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SET.
LET'S PEEL IT.
OK.
GRAB
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
YEEE
RIP!
HUFF HUFF
IT'S NO GOOD IF NOTHING HAPPENS IN AN HOUR.
AIIEE!

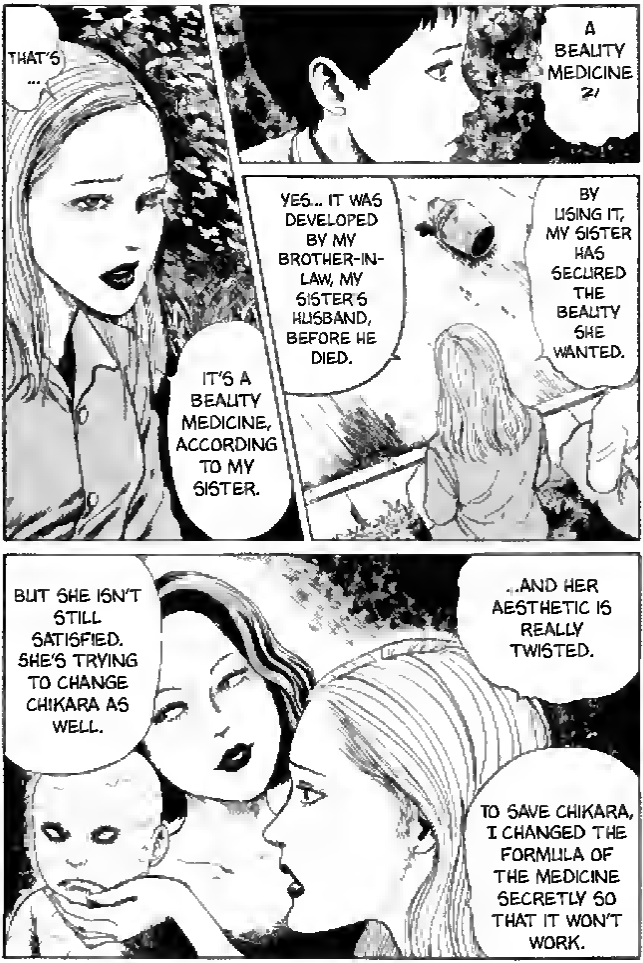
IT'S BEEN AN HOUR.
WE FAILED AGAIN.
NOT AGAIN... WHAT WENT WRONG THIS TIME?!
WHY DOESN'T THE FORMULA WORK?
IT DOESN'T WORK NO MATTER HOW WE TRY.
WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS TO HIM ANYMORE.


MAYBE THE INGREDIENTS ARE GETTING TOO OLD... I DON'T WANT CHIKARA TO SUFFER ANYMORE...
JUST LOOK AT HIM. WE'RE PEELING HIS SKIN OFF EVERYTIME WE UNCOVER HIM.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT... I'M JUST TRYING TO SHOW HIM HIS TRUE BEAUTY...
I WANT TO SEE IT TOO.
RIP
I WANNA SEE.
RIP
OH MY...
RIP!
UGH.../
RIP!
I WANNA SEE! I WANNA SEE!

I'LL BE FINE MOMOKO. YOU CAN GO BACK NOW
YOU SHOULD STAY, DAD.
I WISH I COULD BUT I CAN'T.
TAKE CARE, DEAR
BYE DAD. TELL MOM I SAID HI...
GYAA!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!

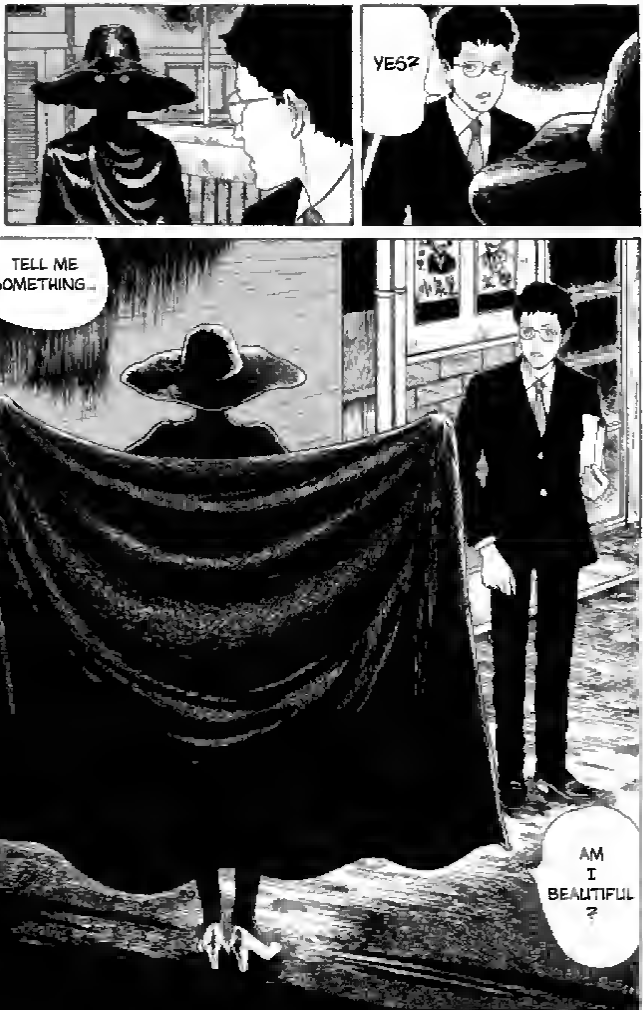
THAT MUST BE...!
WAIT!
PANT PANT
HUFF
HUFF
THERE
PANT PANT
THUD

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, SHOW YOUR FACE!!
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
HUH?
ACK!
YOU'RE CHIKARA'S AUNT.
PLEASE, MISS TAKIGAWA... LET ME GO...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS THE STICKY LIQUID?
AND WHY ARE YOU DUMPING IT ON PEOPLE?


THAT'S ...
IT'S A BEAUTY MEDICINE, ACCORDING TO MY SISTER.
A BEAUTY MEDICINE ?!
YES... IT WAS DEVELOPED BY MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, MY SISTER'S HUSBAND, BEFORE HE DIED.
BY USING IT, MY SISTER HAS SECURED THE BEAUTY SHE WANTED.
BUT SHE ISN'T STILL SATISFIED. SHE'S TRYING TO CHANGE CHIKARA AS WELL.
..AND HER AESTHETIC IS REALLY TWISTED.
TO SAVE CHIKARA, I CHANGED THE FORMULA OF THE MEDICINE SECRETLY SO THAT IT WON'T WORK.

BUT IT STILL DAMAGES CHIKARA'S SKIN TERRIBLY BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANT USAGE.
SEEING CHIKARA SUFFER TEARS MY HEART APART.
SO I STARTED TO TAKE IT TO STRANGERS ...
I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER.
BUT I THOUGHT CHIKARA'S BEING ABUSED WAS TRUE.

STEP
STEP
GRRR
STEP
STEP
EXCUSE ME SIR...


YES?
TELL ME SOMETHING...
AM I BEAUTIFUL?

OH MY GOD!
H...
HEEELP !!!
WAHAHAHA HAHAHA!
PLEASE FORGET THE WHOLE THING, MISS TAKIGAWA.
STAY AWAY. I'M TELLING YOU THIS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.
PLEASE LEAVE BEFORE MY SISTER FINDS OUT...

I CAN'T LET MY STUDENT SUFFER LIKE THIS
I MUST SEE HIS MOTHER!
LET ME TALK TO HER!
TALKING TO HER WON'T DO ANY GOOD.
PLEASE LEAVE! NOW!
DASH!
DASH!
!
SLAM!

HEEHEE ...
PLEASE JUST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
THIS IS NOTHING BUT TODAY'S ALCHEMY.. A MIRACLE...
MY HUSBAND WAS A MODERN ALCHEMIST. HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE STUDY OF AN ELIXIR
...AND THIS IS THE MEDICINE HE MADE, AT LAST.
THE FOMULA IS WRITTEN IN HIS REPORTS.
MY HUSBAND BELIEVED IN IT AND TRIED IT ON HIMSELF.
HE WORKED FOR DAYS WITHOUT SLEEPING. IT WAS A CONSTANT PROCESS OF TRIAL AND ERROR.
ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS SPREAD IT OVER HIS BODY AND LET IT DRY. HE WAS THAT CLOSE TO UNDYING YOUTH.

BUT HE GOT AN UNEXPECTED RESULT AN HOUR LATER.
HE WAS SHOCKED, AND HE DIED. I CAN IMAGINE HOW FRIGHTENED HE WAS. I MEAN, HOW COULD HE EXPECT TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YES... HIS LOOKS REALLY CHANGED, BUT NOT IN THE WAY HE EXPECTED HE PASSED AWAY SOON AFTER SEEING THE RESULT..
IT'S A SHAME, BECAUSE...
BOIL
BOIL
I FOUND THE REAL BEAUTY IN HIS TRANSFORMED BODY...
THIS IS THE STORY OF OUR LIVES, MISS TAKIGAWA.
BUBBLE BUBBLE

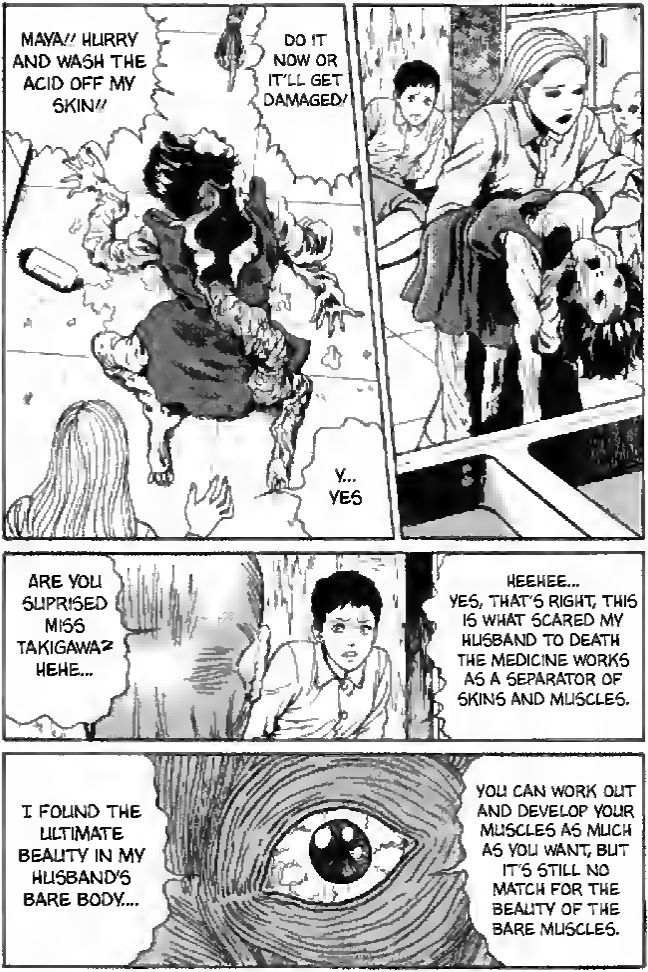
YOU SEE, I'M BOILING THE MEDICINE RIGHT NOW. I HOPE IT'LL WORK THIS TIME.
I'LL LET YOU TRY SOME TOO.
DON'T DO IT. IT WON'T WORK..
HUSH, MAYA!
BOIL DOWN HIDES OF OX AND PIG, AS WELL AS THEIR BONES, ADD HERB, RHUS LACQUER, AND A VARIETY OF SOLVENTS..
THEN, ADD A FEW DROPS OF THIS DEADLY POISON FOR A FINISHING TOUCH..
IN THIS BOTTLE IS A STRONG ACID.
IT MELTS JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
TWIST
TWIST
POP

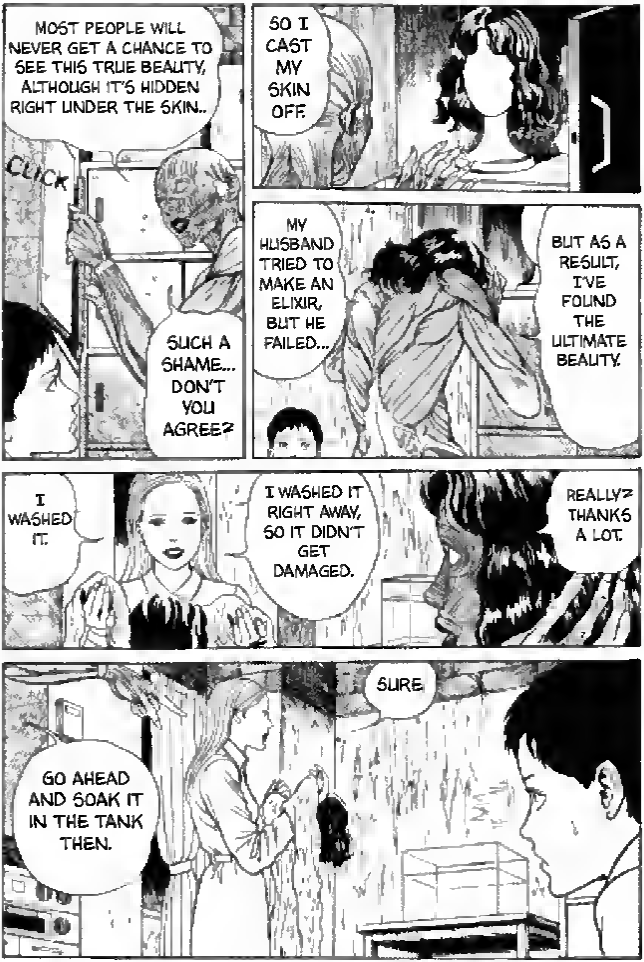
OOPS
SLIP
SPLASH!
CLINK!
AIIEEE!
MAYA //
MAYA! I SPILLED IT ON MY LEG!
MAYA! GET IT OFF! NOW! THIS ACID IS PENETRATIVE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! PULL THE ZIPPER DOWN NOW!
HURRY OR MY MUSCLES WILL BE BURNT TOO!
Y... YES.

YEEE/
HURRY/
HURRY/
CAN'T YOU
HEAR ME?/
HURRY/
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
POP!
AIIEE/

WOOSH!!
HOP!

WHAT I SAW WAS A HUMAN WITH NO FLESH.
THE STRIPS OF RED MUSCLES ON HER SKINLESS BODY
WIGGLED LIKE CATER-PILLARS EVERY TIME SHE MOVED.
HER LEGS AND HANDS WERE COVERED WITH MESHES OF WHITE TENDONS THAT LOOKED LIKE THEY COULD SNAP OFF WITH THE SLIGHTEST TUG..
...ALL MOVING IN AND OUT UNDERNEATH A TRANSLUCENT MEMBRANE.
GYAAA!
OH GOOD... IT DIDN'T GET BURNT...


MAYA// HURRY AND WASH THE ACID OFF MY SKIN//
DO IT NOW OR IT'LL GET DAMAGED/
Y... YES
ARE YOU SUPRISED MISS TAKIGAWA? HEHE...
HEEHEE... YES, THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS WHAT SCARED MY HUSBAND TO DEATH THE MEDICINE WORKS AS A SEPARATOR OF SKINS AND MUSCLES.
I FOUND THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY IN MY HUSBAND'S BARE BODY....
YOU CAN WORK OUT AND DEVELOP YOUR MUSCLES AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, BUT IT'S STILL NO MATCH FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE BARE MUSCLES.


MOST PEOPLE WILL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO SEE THIS TRUE BEAUTY, ALTHOUGH IT'S HIDDEN RIGHT UNDER THE SKIN..
CLICK
SUCH A SHAME... DON'T YOU AGREE?
SO I CAST MY SKIN OFF.
MY HUSBAND TRIED TO MAKE AN ELIXIR, BUT HE FAILED...
BUT AS A RESULT, I'VE FOUND THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY.
I WASHED IT.
I WASHED IT RIGHT AWAY, SO IT DIDN'T GET DAMAGED.
REALLY? THANKS A LOT.
GO AHEAD AND SOAK IT IN THE TANK THEN.
SURE.

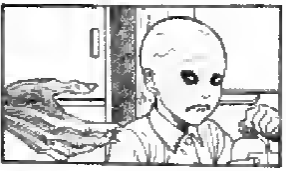
HEEHEE... TIME FOR A BATH...
SPLASH
WHEN I TAKE IT OFF, I HAVE TO SOAK IT IN SALINE SOLUTION SO THAT IT WON'T DIE.
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THE SKIN .. IT KEEPS MY BODY NICE AND MOIST.
IF I KEEP IT OFF, I GET DEHYDRATED VERY QUICKLY.
I WISH I COULD LOOK AT MY LOVELY MUSCLES ALL DAY LONG, BUT... I DON'T WANNA GET MUMMIFIED, YOU KNOW.
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT I WANT TO SEE IT
BUT...
WE CAN'T MAKE THE MEDICINE WITHOUT THE ACID...
.....
HUH?

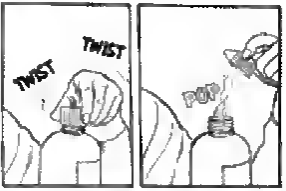
ODD...
THIS DOESN'T SMELL LIKE THE STRONG ACID AT ALL....
I WONDER...
.....
...THIS IS...
THIS IS...
MAYA...
MAYA.... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
TELL ME NOW YOU'RE THE ONE MANAGING THE CHEMICALS.
THAT IS...
PLAIN WATER IN THAT BOTTLE!
P...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

AH-HA! I GOT IT!
YOU PUT WATER IN THE BOTTLE DIDN'T YOU?! .. NO WONDER IT NEVER WORKED!
WERE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT CHIKARA?!
...MAYBE YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING, BUT YOU WERE WRONG.
MY SON HAS A RIGHT TO SEE HIS OWN MUSCLES TOO!
AND I WON'T LET ANYONE STOP HIM!!
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO FAINT.
CHIKARA'S MOTHER WAS UNBELIEVABLY ARROGANT AND INSANE.
MAYA ...
WHERE DID YOU PUT THE REAL ACID?!
TELL ME! NOW!!
U...UM...

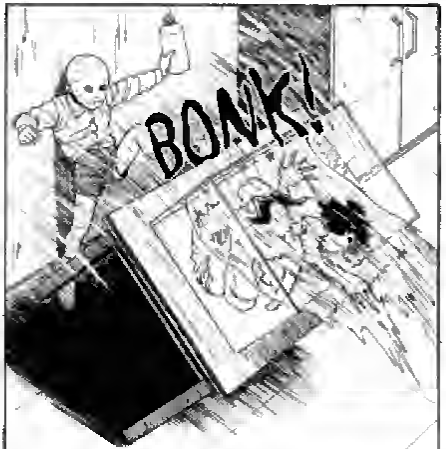
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
HOW CAN YOU SABOTAGE ME?!
MOM.
I KNOW WHERE IT IS.
I SAW AUNTIE HIDING THIS BOTTLE.
THIS IS IT, RIGHT?

OH CHIKARA, THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHAT I NEEDED. BRING IT TO ME.




TWIST
TWIST
POP!

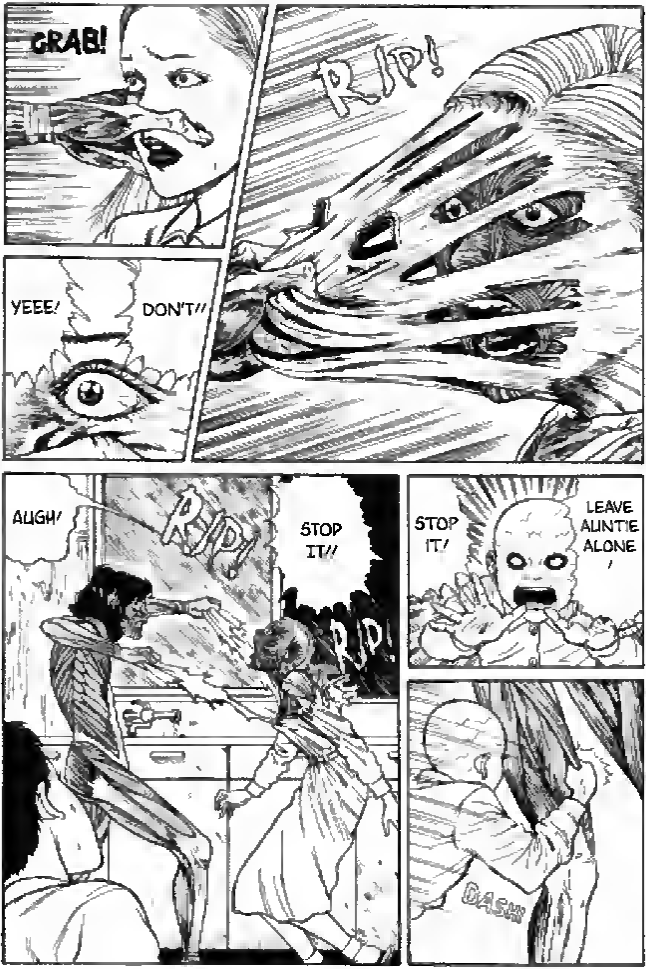
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HONEY? DON'T OPEN IT, IT'S NOT A TOY...


BONK!

WOOOSH!
CH...
CHIKARA...
SPLASH
SPLASH
SIZZZZLE

GYAAA/
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING?/
SIZZZLE
AIIIEEEE/
MY SKIN/
MY SKIN//
OH NO/
MY SKIN/
MY
SKIN///
COUGH
CHOKE

SLIDE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MAYA!
MY SKIN IS BURNT AND RUINED, MAYA! . WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!!
MAYA.. HOW ARE YOU GONNA TAKE CARE OF THIS?!
I'LL TURN INTO A MUMMY IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING !!
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO USE YOUR SKIN..
GIVE IT TO ME NOW!
I'LL RIP IT OFF IF I HAVE TO!!


GRAB!
RIP!
YEEE!
DON'T!!
AUGH!
RIP!
STOP IT!!
RIP!
RIP!
STOP IT!
LEAVE AUNTIE ALONE!
DASH

GYAA!
RIP!
UHGHHHHH
!!!
SNAP!
MY MUSCLES ...
OH, MY MUSCLES ...
UG... UGHHH...

MISS TAKIGAWA ...
LOOK AT ME...
I USED THE MEDICINE TOO.. THREE YEARS AGO...
I'M DYING .. MY SKIN IS ALL TORN... BUT... BUT...
BUT PLEASE BELIEVE ME MISS TAKIGAWA... I NEVER WANTED TO USE THE MEDICINE ..
I WAS DECEIVED BY MY OWN SISTER...
SHE TOLD ME IT WAS GOING TO MAKE ME LOOK BEAUTIFUL ..
..BUT HER IDEA OF BEAUTY IS HORRIBLE!!
AND THEN, I FAINTED AWAY..

FLESH-COLORED HORROR / END

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